

TUC/BLACKPOOL

Unions support 12-month rule on pay settlements by a comfortable majority

Maintenance of the 12-month rule on pay settlements was supported by a comfortable majority of delegates on several card votes. The size of the majority was more than twice the card vote cast by Mr Hugh Scanlon for the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers' engineering section, in spite of the protests of some of his fellow delegates.

Several of the AUEW delegates were called to order by the president of the congress, Mrs Marie Patterson, during the voting when they stood and shouted in protest.

The composite motion confirming the 12-month rule, but instructing the general council to free collective bargaining at the end of the second stage of the social contract was carried by 7,130,000 votes to 4,344,000, a majority of 2,786,000. The result was greeted with clapping and some isolated cheers.

The debate had taken place on several motions and the general line of the first vote was followed on the remaining motions.

Opening the debate, Mr Murray said that the TUC-Labour Party document "The Year Ahead" must be the 80s deal with the years of transition to the opportunities that would open up to Britain in the 1980s. If trade unionists were gain from those opportunities, to reap the fruits of their efforts and their sacrifices, the unity of purpose and sense of priorities and timing that it had shown over the past two years.

The theme of using North Sea oil revenues to regenerate British industry came to the report, but it was not suggested that they had only to wait for North Sea oil to flood in.

"Progress towards our economic and social objectives depends upon our using our resources fully and productively. So a boost in the nation's rate of economic growth is an immediate priority."

The Treasury and the Bank of England may be good at organizing the gilt-edged market but they should not be allowed to do that instead of economic growth or at the expense of economic growth." Every 1 per cent of national income lost by the cost of growth cost £1,000m. Those who argued that the economy should be held down to a virtually zero growth were asking the nation to rob itself of resources and wealth which the people needed.

The Government understood that the biggest and most damaging deficit in the economy is not the balance of payments deficit or the public sector financial deficit. It is the deficit in jobs."

They could be looking for a rate of growth about 2 per cent higher than present plans could give and that would bring an extra 22,000m of real production in a year.

A move towards a shorter working week and for that matter a shorter working year was a social and economic priority. The unions and the nation needed a reduction in the working week and year and a growth in living standards. The progress wanted would not come without new investment allied with policies to create new job opportunities.

One trouble of Britain was that private enterprise was too strong in trying to erode and too flabby in being enterprising (applause).

"We are familiar with the message from governments that we must make sacrifices in the short term in order to reap the rewards in the longer term. That is sometimes true, but if you're not going to lose sight of maintaining the short term cannot last for ever."

The time to start moving into the longer term was this year, not 1980. They had reached the point where a substantial growth of living standards was coming within reach.

In the 1980s the movement had been almost a lone voice in saying that economic expansion, not further retrenchment, was the answer to stagnation.

"In some ways the same issues face us today. They are ever present in our work as Councillors. We are not asking the Chancellor to take orders from the TUC, but we are not anybody's lap dog," he said.

"We have the right, and indeed it is a duty, to argue and criticize. We should listen to what the Government with all their responsibility can say, as it is right that we know our responsibilities should have our views taken fully into account when we speak to the Government. This is true of economic growth, of unemployment and the像。

A substantial increase in the funds available to the NEB and the development of training centres like its predecessors, was impeccably organized. A tent crew went ahead each day to erect a dozen large marquees for the overnight stay; a catering crew prepared meals of beans, mashed potatoes, chips and sandwiches.

The city's Revolutionary Party has in its two-year life been associated with scenes of violence and rowdy picketing. It enjoyed a strong degree of rank-and-file support, however, as confirmed by the generous overnight hospitality given by local union branches, trade councils and working men's clubs.

Delegates have been subjected to a long barrage through loud-hailers as they arrived at the conference centre, separated from the city by hedges and perimeter fencing.

The campaign's basic principle of full employment is clearly not in dispute among delegates, but there is a great deal of concern

Reports by John Winder, Geoffrey Bowring and Stephen Goodwin, our parliamentary staff.

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WEST EUROPE

Slight stimulus but no vote-catching in sober Barre budget

From Charles Hargrove

Paris, Sept 7
The draft budget for 1978 approved by the French Cabinet this morning is not an electoral budget. M Barre, the Prime Minister, has remained true to his reputation as a careful husbander of the nation's finances, and an opponent of all demagogic measures. He is proposing a continued austerity to keep wage and price inflation in check, with just enough stimulus to maintain industrial activity and prevent the economy from lapsing into recession.

President Giscard d'Estaing said at the Cabinet meeting: "The Government has avoided all electoral gimmicks, and taken only national requirements into consideration. Public opinion will approve the honesty and seriousness of this budget. It is a serious budget to help an economy which is recovering."

The most striking characteristic of the draft budget is that, for the first time for eight years, it officially provides for a deficit, albeit a modest one, of 9,800m francs (£1,140m) out of a total expenditure of 398,260m francs.

Even so, this deficit represents a departure from the sacrosanct doctrine of balanced budgets, upon which President Giscard d'Estaing based his reputation when he was Finance Minister, however much the doctrine was infringed in practice by the device of supplementary budgets to cover excess or unexpected expenditure.

This year's imbalance is expected to be around 16,000m francs, in addition to the 5,500m francs injected into the economy in the form of support for public works, aid to industrial enterprises, and increased family benefits. It should, in the Government's view, provide a mild degree of economic

Murder suspect jailed for being in France

Nice, Sept 7.—An Italian once suspected of murdering a British tourist couple was jailed today for a month for being illegally in France. Signor Walter Foile was found guilty by a Nice court of infringing a 1971 expulsion order banning him from France.

Signor Foile was arrested here on August 11 and charged with the murder of Sidney and Avis Broderick, who had been found shot in their car in the hills overlooking the Riviera two days before.

An examining magistrate later announced that Signor Foile was no longer a suspect following surprise evidence from an unnamed woman who said the Italian was with her on the night of the murder.

It is understood the murder charge against him will be lifted when police have completed their inquiries.—Agence France Presse.

Lisbon resignation

Lisbon, Sept 7.—One of two women in the Portuguese Government, Senhora Maria Manuela da Silva, Secretary of State for Planning, said in an interview she was resigning because she disagreed with its political and economic policies.

Schools in France reopen under a new system

From Ian Murray

Paris, Sept 7
France's half million teachers go back to work in the morning to prepare for the 13 million children who restart school on Thursday of next week. It will be a strange new term at the first stage of wider-ranging reforms in the education system comes into force.

The reforms became law two years ago and since then M René Haby, the Minister of Education, has been preparing the way for their implementation with 11 decrees, 19 departmental orders and 20 circulars—for the most part written by himself.

The most important innovation is the creation of something akin to comprehensive school education with a single college for secondary education instead of the previous streaming system. The old method of making children repeat a year if they failed to reach the required standard at the end of the summer term is being abolished in principle. Only in exceptional cases or at the parents' request will this now happen.

Another new scheme is the creation of a scholastic dossier which will follow a child throughout its school career, registering its mental, psychological and physical development. This is to be handed on from school to school and class

stimulus, pending a real recovery of activity in West Germany and Japan.

The assumptions upon which the budget is based are regarded as distinctly optimistic. They are a 4.5 per cent rate of growth next year, a rise in prices of 6.5 per cent (as against just under 9 per cent this year), and a 4 per cent rise in consumption.

Industrial investment is expected to rise by 3.7 per cent, about the same rate as this year, while exports, as the Government's estimates, should increase by over 8 per cent.

If the growth rates does not live up to expectations the deficit is likely to exceed 15,000m francs, but the Prime Minister has insisted that in any case it will be financed by real savings and not by the creation of money or the floating of a national loan.

The budget changes which are more likely to attract the public eye are the increase in the price of petrol by 9 per cent in two stages next year and a rise in the tobacco and the motor vehicle tax. The income tax threshold is to be raised by 7.5 per cent so as partly to compensate for inflation.

M Barre said at the Cabinet meeting that he hoped to achieve a greater measure of fiscal justice. Changes would benefit small incomes while higher ones would be more heavily penalized.

Altogether it is not a startling or novel budget. Likely to make an impact on public opinion before the decisive parliamentary elections next March.

M Barre remains true to himself. He promised the country austerity for three years, and he sticks to his guns. The budget may enable the economy to emerge from its present hibernation into convalescence, but it does not hold out the hope of anything more.

Businessman is kidnapped in Lyons suburb

From Our Own Correspondent Paris, Sept 7

Mr Roland Simon, a businessman, kidnapped last night when returning home at Couzon-aumont-d'Or, a residential suburb of Lyons. His wife and an unidentified young woman saw the crime from a window. M Simon, who is 37, had just parked his car in the garden when two men, masked and armed, forced him into a waiting vehicle. Another man was apparently waiting inside.

A woman neighbour told the police today that she had already seen the blue car in which Mr Simon was kidnapped come and go several times on Monday, and yesterday morning. It had been parked for a while outside the villa. Another witness heard a rifle shot at the time of the kidnapping.

M Simon received threats earlier this week, and went to a secret meeting in the hills on Monday afternoon. According to the police, no demand for a ransom has yet been received.

M Simon is director of a real estate firm owned by his family, which administers several blocks of flats mainly occupied by North African workers in Villeurbanne, an industrial suburb of Lyons.

to class to give the teachers the benefit of all that is known about the child from previous years.

For the lessons themselves there is a change of emphasis away from French and physical exercise to mathematics and outside activities to widen a child's outlook, industry visits to museums. Classes will be reduced from an hour to 50 minutes in the first year of the secondary school and examinations will be reorganized to reduce from 12 passes to 10 for the baccalaureate.

One intention of the new scheme is to reduce the class size to an eventual maximum of 24. This will have the added advantage of reducing the numbers of unemployed teachers. An additional plan is to have one or two extra teachers attached to a school to look after children needing special care.

One particularly strong area of the French education system—that of nursery schools for children—aged from two to six—is being further reinforced. At present 78 per cent of children in this age group attend school. The aim is to increase this to more than 90 per cent of those over three by 1980. This year an extra 2,316 nursery school classes are being opened.

For these schools and for primary schools a parents committee is being created as part of the school management board.

OVERSEAS
Misuse of aircraft levelled at Mr Lance

From Patrick Brogan

Washington, Sept 7

The controversy surrounding Mr Bert Lance took a turn for the worse today with the revelation that the Justice Department had been asked to consider prosecuting him for misusing a private aircraft belonging to a bank he once controlled.

The National Bank of Georgia, of which Mr Lance was President until he became Director of the Office of Management and Budget, has an aircraft for its officials' use and apparently some Washington bureaucrats consider that Mr Lance might have been committing an offence by using it for personal trips or giving lifts to his friends.

If the aircraft was not always used for business purposes then it might be a taxable perk, and Mr Lance might have been negligent in not reporting it to the Internal Revenue Service as income.

The New York Times spreads all across its front page. So does the Washington Post, as if to dispel the belief deeply held by right-wing Republicans that those two papers never put the Democrats through the mangle with the thoroughness they use on Republicans.

The Senate has already reported that Mr Carter should be given ride on the aircraft in 1975 and they will be broadcast today after Mr Charles Kirk, one of the President's closest unofficial advisers (and also an old friend of Mr Lance), had flown in it. Mr Lance is being submitted to the full weight of post-Watergate investigative reporting, and the reporters and editors seem to have lost all sense of proportion.

The National Bank of Georgia deserves this amount of attention. Its deposits are around \$300m (£177m) and it is 30th in size in the country. The doings of much smaller banks, with which Mr Lance has dealings, are also being investigated with the zeal once displayed in investigating Watergate and are, of course, much more vulnerable to attack than are larger institutions.

Mr Lance walking to his office yesterday.

**Search for new 'Roots' leads to series on another emotive subject**

TV political soap opera about the Nixon years

From Michael Leapman

New York, Sept 7

The American Broadcasting Company, one of the three national television networks, invented a new programming technique last winter when it screened the serial *Roots* at peak viewing hours on consecutive nights. It was an enormous success; but whether that was because of the way it was shown or the intrinsic fascination of the subject matter will become clear quite soon.

Yesterday it began another such series on a topic going less far back in history but equally emotive. *Washington behind closed doors* is a political soap opera of a class kind, the chief fascination of which is that most of the leading characters are identifiable people only thinly disguised.

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The series is a variation on the theme of the Central Intelligence Agency confessing to its putative mistress that he has organized the odd assassination.

"I did what I had to do."

"How did you do it?"

"The only way I could."

ABC has tried to avoid a

liberally heavy demands on viewers' time and attention. The first episode lasted more than two hours and the rest will be nearly as long. Preliminary viewing figures show that the programme was about a third of the viewing audience in three cities: New York, Los Angeles and Chicago. This is not as good as *Roots*, but the figures for that improved the series nearer its climax.

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Occasionally, though, the soap opera element borders on the ludicrous. In the preliminary blurb we were told that the series would be about "a Washington where ambition is the dark corridor to infinity". There is a vintage exchange in a scene where the head of the Central Intelligence Agency confesses to his putative mistress that he has organized the odd assassination.

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search on its competitors by running the series in the week before the new autumn schedules are traditionally inaugurated. The other two networks tried to combat the opening episode by running block-busting feature films. One was about the Hindenburg disaster, starring George C Scott, and the other a science fiction spectacular called *Logan's Run*.

Against that competition, a third of the audience is quite creditable and might improve as the week wears on.

Critics were shown the first few episodes in advance. The man from the *Washington Post* says the first chapter is the weakest, while *The New York Times* says it is the best. Both deplore the fact that romantic interludes too often get in the way of the political satire.

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Mr Sithole rejects Smith plan and backs Anglo-US proposals

From Michael Knipe

Salisbury, Sept 7

Mr Smith, the Rhodesian prime minister, today told the first meeting of his new Rhodesian Front parliamentary caucus since the Front won all 50 white constituencies in last week's general election.

Mr Lance is under siege the way Mr Nixon was under siege four years ago and President Carter and his press secretary, Mr Jody Powell, now know what Mr Nixon and Mr Ronald Ziegler, Mr Nixon's press secretary, went through.

The Senate committee on governmental affairs is investigating the matter and agreed yesterday to postpone Mr Lance's inquisition for a week to give his new lawyer, Mr Clark Clifford, a chance to learn about the case.

The delay will permit Mr Carter to go through with the first public phase of his attempt to persuade the Senate to ratify the Panama treaty without the distraction of Mr Lance's testimony. It also gives Mr Carter time to decide whether Mr Lance should resign before appearing before the Senate committee, or afterwards.

Moscow changes its mind on visa for Italian

From Our Own Correspondent Washington, Sept 7

Rome, Sept 7.—The Soviet Union bowed to loud complaints by the Italian Communist Party and issued an entry visa today to an independent-minded communist scholar it had tried to keep out.

Sigor Giulio Einaudi, son of a former president of Italy, said the Soviet authorities had given his Russian literature expert, Professor Vittorio Strada, an entry visa to accompany him to Moscow's controversial first international council of Morgan Guaranty and a director of IBM.

In Houston, her next stop, she will be at a hotel and only in Washington will she accept official hospitality when she stays with Mr Peter Jay, the Ambassador.

Before leaving London, Mrs Thatcher held a briefing for American journalists, which resulted in long and fairly flattering profiles in the *Washington Post* and the *New York Times*. The *New York Times* correspondent said the trip was "designed to give her the look of a seasoned international politician". Both described her as the iron butterfly and noted with approval her blunt, non-sense conservative philosophy and what *Times* called her "well-groomed Tory gentility".

Her most important public pronouncement here will be made tomorrow, in a speech to the British-American Chamber of Commerce. Tomorrow she will also meet Mr Andrew Young, the United States representative to the United Nations, and will enter the world of finance again when she dines with Mr David Rockefeller. The most spectacular part of the trip will be Saturday, when she will fly in a helicopter to a Texas oil rig as a guest of Gulf Oil.

Mrs Thatcher has taken care with the advance preparation of her visit. She has been acting somewhat like an American political campaigner, though on a more modest scale. She even sent an "advance man" here in the person of Mr Adam Butler, her parliamentary private secretary. Her staff have been briefing her press relations themselves, rather than using the British Information Service (BIS), as important British politicians normally do.

With her in tow, Mrs Thatcher will be accompanied by her husband, Sir Denis, and her two sons, Mark and Charles, and her daughter, Sarah.

She will be staying at the Savoy Hotel, which has been booked for her by the Foreign Office.

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OVERSEAS

Political outcry in West Bengal at prospect of concessions by India in Ganges water dispute

From Richard Wigg
Delhi, Sept 7

The beginning of an agreement reached by India and Bangladesh negotiators on one of the trickiest aspects of the long-standing Ganges waters dispute is now threatened by a political outcry in West Bengal.

The two countries are due to resume talks in about 10 days' time on how to share our waters at the driest season of the year, preceding the summer monsoon, and to go on to wider issues if they make progress.

But local political forces and interests in West Bengal, and particularly Calcutta, whose port depends upon receiving waters diverted at the Farakka barrage, situated across the Ganges just before it enters Bangladesh, have begun to voice resistance to any concessions by India.

The Janata Government has been negotiating since it came to power last March with Bangladesh and evidently feels that business could be done with the regime of General Ziaur Rahman. Dacca also clearly sees an advantage in reaching an agreement with the Indian Government in its present mood, remembering how Mrs Gandhi did not proceed as it expected with an earlier understanding.

But Mr Jagannath Ram, the West Bengal state assembly yesterday urged the sending of an all-party delegation to Delhi, to be present during the resumed negotiations and oppose any move to cut back on India's share of 40,000 cubic

feet of water a second flowing through Farakka, even at the driest season.

Janata was actually the last of the local political parties to register opposition. The local Congress Party had already called "on the people of the state to resist" and an important figure in the forward block, one of the constituent groups in West Bengal's Marxist Communist government, had written to Mr Desai, the Prime Minister, alleging that India's representative in the Farakka talks had reduced India's minimum requirements to 21,000 cubic ft.

When the Prime Minister at his press conference last week said an agreement had been reached on short-term sharing at the driest period, a Bangladeshi Government spokesman immediately replied that only a verbal understanding had been reached on the quantum of water to be shared for the driest period of all, beginning on April 21.

He emphasized that sharing details had still to be worked out on the basis of 10-day periods through the whole of the dry season and that an understanding had to be reached on the machinery for implementing any agreement. That sketched out, a substantial deal for the moment.

It was Mr Jagannath Ram, the Defence Minister who has been leading for India throughout this year's talks, who really alarmed West Bengal.

Speaking in Calcutta to businessmen 10 days ago, he observed that a total of only 55,000 cubic ft per second flowed through Farakka during

Mr Teng tells of setback to US links

Peking, Sept 7.—Mr Cyrus Vance, the American Secretary of State, did not propose to the Chinese Government during his recent talks in Peking that an American liaison office should be set up in Taiwan, an official of the American Liaison Office in Peking said today.

This appeared to be a denial of an important point in a statement reportedly made yesterday by Mr Teng Hsiao-Ping, the Deputy Prime Minister, to the representatives of the American news agency AP visiting Peking.

According to AP, Mr Teng, who had asked that he not be quoted directly, said Mr Vance had proposed the setting up of an American Embassy in Peking and a liaison office in Taipei, and that the Chinese Government had rejected the proposal which would have reversed the current position.

The interview was granted to a delegation of AP executives and directors headed by Mr Keith Miller, the agency's president. It was the first since Mr Teng's return to office.

Mr Teng told them that efforts to normalize diplomatic relations between the United States and China suffered a setback during Mr Vance's visit last month. The talks with Mr Vance represented a retreat from proposals advanced by former President Ford and by Dr Kissinger, the former Secretary of State.

In the course of the interview Mr Teng asserted that reports of progress resulting from the Vance visit were

He also stated that Mr Ford promised in December, 1975, that if reelected, he would break off ties with Taiwan and establish diplomatic relations with Peking.

Mr Teng's reported statement about the setting up of a Taiwan liaison office had been the only really surprising point in the interview with the American journalists and it caused amazement in diplomatic circles here.

In view of the fact that no official translation of the Teng statement has been available, there is also doubt in American circles here whether the Deputy Prime Minister did in fact use the word "setback" to describe the Sino-American normalization process after Mr Vance's visit.

Despite the nuances that could eventually come to light concerning Mr Teng's blunt declarations, it is felt in diplomatic quarters that he was merely confirming Peking's growing impatience with Washington.—Agence France-Presse.



Fashion

by Prudence Glynn

Quebec law is defied by parents

From John Best
Ottawa, Sept 7

Widespread defiance of a recently passed Quebec law restricting the teaching of English marked the reopening of schools in Montreal yesterday.

Pupils whom the provincial Government says should not be taught in English walked in with those officially eligible for teaching in the language. There were no incidents.

The air of normality belied the bitterness and confrontation building up over the new law which the Government of the predominantly French-speaking province pushed through the Quebec legislature recently.

Under the legislation, the only students eligible to be taught in English are those who were already receiving English-language instruction, those with an older brother or sister in the English-language stream, or those with at least one parent who attended an English-language school in Quebec.

Mr René Lévesque, the provincial Premier, who heads a Parti Québécois Government which wants to lead Quebec eventually out of the Canadian Confederation, has described the registration of ineligible students at English-language schools as "administrative civil disobedience".

He says it will not be tolerated, and has threatened unspecified measures to counter it. These could include a cut-off of the \$1,200 (£636) per pupil Government grant in the case of pupils officially registered, and a withholding of graduation diplomas at the end of the school year.

There is as yet no sign that the Government is prepared to send in the police to remove and forcibly transfer them to French schools. Any such action would inflame an already emotionally charged, though outwardly calm, situation.

English-language school

boards, Roman Catholic and Protestant, together with principals, teachers and parents, are engaged in what amounts to a massive conspiracy to look the other way when it comes to applying the new law.

Family arrested for links with guerrillas

Santiago, Sept 7.—An Argentine family of five, reported kidnapped in northern Argentina by 12 armed men, is under arrest for alleged links with left-wing guerrillas, the Argentine Army reported last night.

It said Senor Alejandro Deurech, aged 57, and his family were detained for presumed connections with subversives.

"Sir, we have so much to tell you," said his wife, who was screaming.

Leader of the family, Mrs. Rosario Deurech, in the kitchen, was shot dead by another member of the family.

Earlier today, Mr Alan McReady, the Minister of Defence, said that New Zealand could not expect to catch every vessel illegally fishing in the zone in order to conserve stocks. There were 10 countries interested in fishing the new zone.

Details of the programme are secret. But it is believed to involve increasing the number of warheads on each missile, from three to perhaps six, with the addition of decoy, dummy warheads to confuse enemy defences.

In 1938 an ambitious project was devised to regularize the White Nile's flow from Lake Victoria through a series of dams. But the Second World War and Sudan's civil war effectively killed the scheme.

Later, a Sudanese-Egyptian study evolved a more modest plan and contracts were signed with two French companies for the work.

For the Sudanese Government the advantages are many. It will recover about 5,000 million cubic metres of water, being lost every year, prevent flooding and it is hoped, turn the region into a granary. The canal should also create more jobs and improve livestock rearing conditions.

An all-weather road running alongside the canal is also planned in the Sudan mountains.

Drought worsens food shortage in SE Asia

From Neil Kelly
Bangkok, Sept 7

A prolonged drought is causing concern in several regions of South-East Asia.

The rains are now falling but for the second successive year they have come late and may be insufficient. Food shortages, already serious in Vietnam, are expected to widen and grow worse by the end of the year.

Travelers from Laos report that signs of malnutrition are visible in the west of the country, the area most afflicted by the drought. The communist rulers have responded that the food situation is "disquieting". Urging the people to eat less, the official party newspaper said: "Each grain of rice should be considered as precious as a cartridge in times of war."

The drought is a calamity for Laos which is still suffering from too little rain last year. In addition, shrinking foreign trade and aid and a chaotic currency system have produced an economic crisis.

Last attempts to increase exports and to take foreign aid are being frustrated by Thailand's unofficial blockade of their common border.

Both the Vietnamese and Lao communists have admitted that serious mismanagement of agriculture has worsened their situation.

An extraordinary session in June of the Communist Party Central Committee in Hanoi appointed a new Agriculture Minister, and since then the Government has begun enlarging food-growing areas as well as trying to disperse the population from the Red River delta and from Ho Chi Minh City (Saigon).

It is also seeking supplies of foodstuffs abroad, either by purchase or as aid. This week

Test-firing in Florida for British Polaris tomorrow

By Henry Stanhope
Defence Correspondent

Britain conducted a nuclear test in connection with the programme at the American underground test site in Nevada in 1974. A second test was made in 1976.

A decision to extend the life of Polaris for as long as possible—instead of buying an early successor from the United States was taken by the Conservative Government in 1973 and was confirmed by the present Government the following year.

The trials are part of the Polaris improvement programme which the Government hopes will maintain the aging system as an effective deterrent until the late 1980s or early 1990s.

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The new nostalgia is apparently for the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries.

There is also a question mark over the supply of Polaris missiles when the United States begins phasing them out of its own navy in a few years' time.

They are loosely cut from extravagant materials, velvet, mohair, silk chiffon and moiré taffeta, as though yards of costly fabrics might provide psychological shelter from economic storms. The colours are gentle—pale yellows, beige-pink, grey-lavender, soft orange. It had been a successful collection, with a lot of publicity, and they are already exporting to America.

Among many designers whose recent collections bear traces of the eighteenth-century influence are Sheridan Barnett and Sheilagh Brown who design under the label "Jazz". This is only the second collection they have done under their own name (previously they worked for Quorum and Coopers, among others). In it they have avoided descending into fancy dress and historical costume and attempted to convey a mood of elegance and luxury.

The result is entirely original and it illustrates the move towards rich fabrics and softness of colour and cut.

Sheridan Barnett himself sees two conflicting trends in British design at the moment. "There is punk for the

aggressively young, deliberately harsh, and this more mature, graceful design as well. But anyone wearing these clothes would turn as many heads as someone punk. Our clothes certainly collect stares because they are so different. You need a strong personality to go through a restaurant dressed in such a distinctive way."

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The famous French couture label Chloé would seem as far removed as possible from Sheridan Barnett and Sheilagh Brown, living on talent, hope and a shoestring budget. Despite the disparity, Chloé's designer, Karl Lagerfeld, shows a similar source of inspiration.

He has always been known for the beautiful quality of the rare materials he uses, which might go some way towards explaining the height of his prices.

The romance of the ages of Cavaliers

and highwaymen had clearly struck him forcibly in his last collection, although at times he was dangerously near straight copy. The only point at which he (accidentally) approaches the light hearted grotesquerie of Fellini's *Casanova* is in the huge Puss-in-Boots leather and satin boots worn with some of his dresses, resulting in three-inch humps on each thigh whenever the Chloé wearer bends her leg.

When he is not simply playing wardrobe mistress, his clothes are soft, feminine, wearable and beautiful in a dreamy way. For the first time a shop entirely devoted to his clothes has opened in Britain, at 173 New Bond Street, W1 (493 6277).

Meanwhile, if your interest in the era has been aroused, there is a small exhibition at the National Gallery of portraits of Queen Charlotte, the almost forgotten wife of George III who was sadly convinced that the nation never took to her because she was not pretty. Caricatured mercilessly during her life for her love of glittering jewelry and her supposed obsession with housewifely tasks, she has the authentic Fellini ring about her. The exhibition, *A Royal Subject*, is open free of charge until October 2.

SPORT

Football

England are held to goalless draw

As the whistle was blown for the last time at Wembley last night, it was the Swiss players who leapt in the air and waved their flags with joy. They had held England to a goalless draw and, indeed, had many of the best chances of the match.

Switzerland took all the honour in the early stages. England, despite having seven of Liverpool's European Cup players in the side, took a long time to settle down.

Ray Kennedy had a header well saved by Burgener in the third minute but it was the England goal which had the narrow escape. In the next quarter of an hour, Haider, running through a massive gap in the England defence, sent a low shot inches wide of the far post and then Watson just managed to stop Barberis at the cost of a corner as the midfield man broke through on the left. Clemence was fortunate in the 17th minute as he was beaten to a Easter cross by Kutzle. But the Swiss striker missed the ball as he slid in.

England managed a header by Trevor Francis, which went high over, and a powerful shot from Clemence which Burgener tipped away for a corner. But it was the Swiss who continually caught the eye. They looked several yards faster than England and their moves were both intelligent and penetrating. When necessary, though, they could have been 3-0 ahead by the interval.

Kunz shot over in the 31st minute after Bottomton ran round the ponderous England defence and five minutes later only a reflex save by Clemence prevented Switzerland taking the lead. Barberis worked a clever move past Bottomton and his drive bounced off the out-stretched hands of Clemence for a corner.

Once again it seemed to be a very disappointing performance by England who have lost three of their last four games at Wembley.

Mr Greenwood attempted to solve England's problem of lack of control on the wings by sending on Geoff Hurst as a substitute for Charlton in the second half. The Swiss also made a change, von Wartburg replacing Demarais. In the opening minutes the Swiss goalkeeper, Burgener, was injured in a collision with Barberis but recovered after treatment.

The English Swiss continued to do well. England's defence and Barberis and Kunz both had shots charged down in the 51st minute. Then, in quick succession, McDermott's shot was palmed away by Burgener, Hill headed back into the goalkeeper's arms. McDermott's cross well over the bar and Francis' shot on the turn flashed across goal inches wide. In the 59th minute, Switzerland replaced Kutzle with Sulzer.



Ian Callaghan, who returned to the England side after 11 years, but was replaced by Wilkins near the end.

Some relief was provided by three spectators dressed in red and white, who invaded the pitch and attempted to shake hands with Clemence, who waved them away because the Swiss were within shooting range. Police rounded them up and ushered them down the tunnel.

Three Liverpool players were however playing more in the 76th minute. Dalglish, Liverpool's £440,000 signing from Celtic, was brought down on the edge of the penalty box. Masson chipped the free-kick over a wall of defenders; Dalglish ran on, hooked right foot and took a cross from which Doerner deflected his shot.

Four minutes later Dalglish slipped a defender and, from his cross, Jordan put in a diving header which Crox, the goalkeeper, smothered. At the other end Stewart dived to stop a drive from Linnemann, who was also making his first international appearance.

East Germany made two changes at half-time. They drafted in a striker, Hoffmann, in place of his Magdeburg colleague, Streich, and Kotte in place of Sparwasser.

Masson, Macrae and Hartford were taken off in the afternoon to the alterations in the Daily Mirror in respect of attempts to influence matches affecting Don Revie and Leeds United.

FA inquiry

In Football Association is to hold an inquiry into the allegations in the Daily Mirror in respect of attempts to influence matches affecting Don Revie and Leeds United.

Aston joins Mansfield

John Aston, a former England under-23 player with Luton Town, signed for Mansfield Town yesterday for a fee of £20,000. Aston, who is 30, joined Luton from Manchester United, four years ago having scored 25 goals in 133 appearances.

England soon able to challenge the best

There is no reason why England's footballers should not be challenging the best in the world in the future if there is little hope of reaching next year's World Cup finals.

This was the message of encouragement provided by Mr Dave Sexton, the Manchester United manager, who took charge of the Young England team which beat Norway 3-0 in the under-23 international at Brighton on Tuesday.

Sexton said: "Obviously these are the young men England will be looking to. We have got good young players, with plenty of skill, to match those in other countries. There is no reason why England should not be up there challenging in which the best at top international level."

The outstanding player on the night was the Brighton striker, Peter Ward, who scored three goals on his first international appearance. The other goals came

Today's fixtures

NORTHERN PREMIER LEAGUE:

RUGBY LEAGUE: BBC Radio com-

nexion premiership round: Keighley v Swinton (T-30).

Tennis

Tanner eclipsed beneath fury of Connors' returns

From Rex Bellamy

Tennis Correspondent

Forest Hills, Sept 7

Roscoe Tanner, the champion of Australia, was beaten 6-0, 6-2 by Jimmy Connors in the fourth round of the United States tennis championships here last evening. Tanner, a left-hander, whose mighty service has been unable to maintain the momentum he gained in Australia.

By his own standards he has had a modest year and, in the first round here, he came from a slow start to defeat the United States inter-collegiate champion, Matt Mitchell. Even so, he ranks 11th in the world and last night's defeat was something of a humiliation. Our writer at breakfast this morning had been asked to see Tanner again. "A year time," he said, "A stoic mind. Tanner couldn't serve, couldn't hit a ball into court."

Well, it is something like that. More than most players, Tanner relies on timing a high percentage of his serves from the front court. On this occasion, his percentage of first services into court.

Connors, a left-hander, has

been unable to maintain the momentum he gained in Australia.

The most significant feature of the match, other than its confirmation of Tanner's temporary eclipse, was the evidence that Connors, who beat Bjorn Borg in last year's final, seems to be unaffected by the back trouble that was worrying him when the tournament began. "I'm in good shape," he said. "I've got five sets OK."

This was a reference to the fact that, now the men's singles has reached the quarter-final round, they must play the best of three. There are two things that need to be said about this. The first is that, whatever the duration of a match, it should be consistent from start to finish of a tournament.

The second is that in this respect the United States championships cannot inspire the respect accorded to the Wimbledon and French championships unless the men are tested over the best of five sets. Shorter matches suit the American temperament and, in many ways, are more expedient. But they are not necessarily better. The French championship, for example, is restricted to 10 or 12 rounds.

Borg, who had been needed to play Connors in the semi-final once again, had retire when Richard Stockton was leading him 3-6, 1-0. Borg damaged the shoulder of his racket arm during practice before the championships began. He has been saving at only half-speed.

It says much for his stoicism, skill and speed that he managed to win three matches in straight sets.

It is remarkable that Connors

tennis of his life, exploited Borg's injury by lobbying him and attacking his one-handed forehand, and won him so hard that eventually Borg could stand the pain no longer.

Stockton, ranked ninth in the world, struck the ball so naturally that the beautiful simplicity of his tennis tends to be underrated. He has a great sense of rhythm, maintaining a strong concentration as he does. His tennis and his personality are totally lacking in affectation and, superficially, can be uninteresting. But he is an artful craftsman and his tennis delights the connoisseur.

There was a surprising result in the women's singles when Wendy Turnbull, of Brisbane, beat Rosemary Casals, seeded sixth, 6-0, 6-0. Miss Turnbull, in her 24th year, is the Federation Cup champion. She rallies soundly and is a quick, crisp vollyer. This year she has taken an important stride forward through playing the leading competitors more often and acquiring increased confidence.

Yesterday her quickness thwarted Miss Casals' drop shots and, in the second and third sets, Miss Turnbull eroded the Californian's stamina and morale with drops and lobs. Physically and mentally, Turnbull was clearly the more decisive as the score suggests.

The first player of either sex to reach the semi-final round of the singles was Guillermo Vilas, who beat Ray Moore, 6-1, 6-1, 6-0 today. It meant that Vilas had won 37 consecutive singles, 44 consecutive singles on clay, and 40 consecutive sets. In process he had also won the French championship.

When asked how he maintained his appetite for success, how eager he was to add the United States side to the French, he responded like the poet he is: "It's the same as a guy who needs to eat. The day he eats, he's good. The next day he wants a sandwich. The next day he wants a steak. The next day he wants to go to the palace. One you win one, you want to win another. If you win two, you want to win a third. Then you want a statue in the middle of Buenos Aires."

The following results arrived too late for inclusion in earlier editions.

FOURTH ROUND: R. Stockton (USA) b. H. Borg (Sweden) 6-0, 6-1, 6-0; J. Connors (USA) b. G. Vilas (Poland) 6-2, 6-3, 6-0.

ROUND 5: Miss W. Turnbull (USA) 6-0, 6-1; Mrs. W. Turnbull (USA) 6-0, 6-1; Mrs. C. M. Everett (USA) b. Mrs. N. Hickey (USA) 6-0, 6-0.

ROUND 6: Mrs. N. Hickey (USA) 6-0, 6-0.

ROUND 7: Mrs. N. Hickey (USA) 6-0, 6-0.

ROUND 8: Mrs. N. Hickey (USA) 6-0, 6-0.

ROUND 9: Mrs. N. Hickey (USA) 6-0, 6-0.

ROUND 10: Mrs. N. Hickey (USA) 6-0, 6-0.

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SPORT

Racing

The Minstrel going to Maryland because of import ban fear

By Michael Phillips

The Minstrel has run his last race, Robert Sampson said at Doncaster yesterday, that the Minstrel was being flown to the United States from Shannon Airport last night. Mr. E. P. Taylor, who owns a half share in the Derby winner, said: "I had a good run, I'm afraid of a bad reaction from him. He's been sent to America because of congestive heart disease. He has therefore thought it prudent for The Minstrel to be removed immediately to his new home at the Windfields stud in Maryland.

The cost will be £10,000 and, as yet, no horse has been found to fit him. His whip, the Bridleman Colt, found nothing and dropped away. Scoring on determinedly under Carson's powerful driving, Sexton Blake beat Salmon's Saxon by three-quarters of a length, with Labienus two lengths and a half away third.

Obviously Sexton Blake has now moved forward. That record is the best race won by a colt for his whip, the Bridleman. This is the best colt race that I have ridden in so far this season." But it would be a mistake to rush to and take the present price with so many important tests still to come. The main objective this season is the Doncaster Cup. That Barry Hills considers his other colt, Hawaiian Sound, to have as much potential as yesterday's winner, Hawaian Lodge, seems to me to be well founded. The great man of the year, Bill Wightman, provided the three-year-old wins the St Leger in the style expected.

At Doncaster yesterday, O'Brien's Conqueror Stakes winner, Soliman, did not start for his first race since he was beaten in the St Leger. He was a colt, and like a small champion, he was a colt.

Soliman, who was a colt, was booked to run on Friday.

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ACTION

described much from Robert's point of view of a fellow of an old age, the grandfather of the last of the Carrs. The things I say are the things I say.

These correspondences are from Robert's time, when he was writing his first book, "The Story of the Carrs".

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R. F. Keating

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ENTERTAINMENTS

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ENGLISH NATIONAL OPERA
London 7-10, 12-14, 16-18, 20-22, 24-26, 28-30, 32-34, 36-38, 40-42, 44-46, 48-50, 52-54, 56-58, 60-62, 64-66, 68-70, 72-74, 76-78, 80-82, 84-86, 88-90, 92-94, 96-98, 100-102, 104-106, 108-110, 112-114, 116-118, 120-122, 124-126, 128-130, 132-134, 136-138, 140-142, 144-146, 148-150, 152-154, 156-158, 160-162, 164-166, 168-170, 172-174, 176-178, 180-182, 184-186, 188-190, 192-194, 196-198, 198-200, 202-204, 206-208, 210-212, 214-216, 218-220, 222-224, 226-228, 230-232, 234-236, 238-240, 242-244, 246-248, 250-252, 254-256, 258-260, 262-264, 266-268, 270-272, 274-276, 278-280, 282-284, 286-288, 290-292, 294-296, 298-300, 302-304, 306-308, 310-312, 314-316, 318-320, 322-324, 326-328, 330-332, 334-336, 338-340, 342-344, 346-348, 350-352, 354-356, 358-360, 362-364, 366-368, 370-372, 374-376, 378-380, 382-384, 386-388, 390-392, 394-396, 398-400, 402-404, 406-408, 410-412, 414-416, 418-420, 422-424, 426-428, 430-432, 434-436, 438-440, 442-444, 446-448, 450-452, 454-456, 458-460, 462-464, 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1654-1656, 1658-1660, 1662-1664, 1666-1668, 1670-1672, 1674-1676, 1678-1680, 1682-1684, 1686-1688, 1690-1692, 1694-1696, 1698-1700, 1702-1704, 1706-1708, 1710-1712, 1714-1716, 1718-1720, 1722-1724, 1726-1728, 1730-1732, 1734-1736, 1738-1740, 1742-1744, 1746-1748, 1750-1752, 1754-1756, 1758-1760, 1762-1764, 1766-1768, 1770-1772, 1774-1776, 1778-1780, 1782-1784, 1786-1788, 1790-1792, 1794-1796, 1798-1800, 1802-1804, 1806-1808, 1810-1812, 1814-1816, 1818-1820, 1822-1824, 1826-1828, 1830-1832, 1834-1836, 1838-1840, 1842-1844, 1846-1848, 1850-1852, 1854-1856, 1858-1860, 1862-1864, 1866-1868, 1870-1872, 1874-1876, 1878-1880, 1882-1884, 1886-1888, 1890-1892, 1894-1896, 1898-1900, 1902-1904, 1906-1908, 1910-1912, 1914-1916, 1918-1920, 1922-1924, 1926-1928, 1930-1932, 1934-1936, 1938-1940, 1942-1944, 1946-1948, 1950-1952, 1954-1956, 1958-1960, 1962-1964, 1966-1968, 1970-1972, 1974-1976, 1978-1980, 1982-1984, 1986-1988, 1990-1992, 1994-1996, 1998-2000, 2002-2004, 2006-2008, 2010-2012, 2014-2016, 2018-2020, 2022-2024, 2026-2028, 2030-2032, 2034-2036, 2038-2040, 2042-2044, 2046-2048, 2050-2052, 2054-2056, 2058-2060, 2062-2064, 2066-2068, 2070-2072, 2074-2076, 2078-2080, 2082-2084, 2086-2088, 2090-2092, 2094-2096, 2098-2100, 2102-2104, 2106-2108, 2110-2112, 2114-2116, 2118-2120, 2122-2124, 2126-2128, 2130-2132, 2134-2136, 2138-2140, 2142-2144, 2146-2148, 2150-2152, 2154-2156, 2158-2160, 2162-2164, 2166-2168, 2170-2172, 2174-2176, 2178-2180, 2182-2184, 2186-2188, 2190-2192, 2194-2196, 2198-2200, 2202-2204, 2206-2208, 2210-2212, 2214-2216, 2218-2220, 2222-2224, 2226-2228, 2230-2232, 2234-2236, 2238-2240, 2242-2244, 2246-2248, 2250-2252, 2254-2256, 2258-2260, 2262-226

'We don't aim to establish in Britain an East German or Chinese regime...'

Revolution is the Socialist Workers' way to create their 'ideal society'

The Socialist Workers Party—like the National Front, with which its name has often been linked in recent reports on political violence—is growing fast and has now reached a crucial stage in its development. It assumed its new name at the beginning of this year, after 26 years as the International Socialists, to indicate a change from pressure group to party politics. The party is certainly the most significant of the various groups on the far left. It is actively involved in a number of trade unions and was the main organization behind the "Right To Work" march to Blackpool on Monday.

The SWP regards itself as the only genuine communist party in Britain, standing in the anti-Stalinist tradition of the Communist International. It was formed as the International Socialists, in 1950 by a small group which broke away from the British Communist Party, which included Mr Duncan Hallas, the SWP's present chairman. Mr Hallas, who is now 51, was an engineering apprentice in Manchester who had come into left-wing politics in the 1940s via the Young Communist League.

The International Socialist movement was founded as a reaction against the creation of satellite states by the Soviet Union and the continued domination of Stalinism in the communist world after the Second World War. As Mr Hallas puts it, "We developed as a tendency on a simple basis: socialism is about the self-emancipation of the working classes. We were against the authoritarian state socialist regimes of Russia and Eastern Europe."

Through the 1950s and most of the 1960s, the International Socialists were a small group dominated by students, many of whom were recruited through the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament and the anti-Vietnam protests. They attempted to infiltrate the Labour Party and had virtually no strength in the trade unions or industry. In the past few years there has been significant recruitment of workers and a consequent change in tactics. There is no longer any interest in infiltrating the Labour Party. Instead the SWP is now, for the first time in its career, seriously trying to build up a mass working-class movement in Britain which will ultimately bring about a revolution.

Mr Hallas regards this as a feasible strategy because he believes that the ending of eco-



Mr Duncan Hallas and members of the Socialist Workers Party: "people must participate".



Mr Duncan Hallas and members of the Socialist Workers Party: "people must participate".

mic expansion in Britain in the past few years has fundamentally altered the political outlook. Specifically he feels that it is causing the collapse of reformist socialism and leaving revolution as the only option. In the boom conditions of the postwar period, he says, the dominant socialist philosophy was expressed by thinkers like Anthony Crosland, and revolutionaries were reduced to the role of commentators and propagandists. Economic expansion meant that everyone could have more, so the built-in conflicts in capitalist society were eased and obscured.

Now, Mr Hallas believes, these conflicts are coming to the fore. The Labour Party has aroused expectations among the people that cannot be satisfied. With the collapse of the Keynesian system, reformist socialism no longer has any appeal. The field is open for the revolutionary approach. He says: "We believe that the developing crisis in the capitalist system, by which we mean both economic stagnation and the social and political conflicts to which it gives rise, makes it possible to think in terms of developing a sizable and serious revolutionary socialist party in a way that was not possible 20 or even 10 years ago."

The political thinking of the SWP is cast in a classic Marxist-Leninist mould. It wants to see the establishment of a classless society and a planned economy with democratic collective control by the producers.

Production would be organized not on the basis of creating wants, as now, but on the basis of satisfying existing wants. The monetary element in the economy would be progressively reduced, leading to the eventual abolition of the wage system. Ideally, the party, which is strongly internationalist, would like to see this brought about as part of the creation of a new world-wide economic social order, but it accepts it might initially be confined to Britain.

It is difficult to establish from the SWP how its ideal society would operate. Mr Hallas simply says that it would develop naturally out of the revolution which initiated it, and that it is responsible for people brought up with the competitive drive drilled into them to imagine a society based on totally different foundations. There are no existing societies which Mr Hallas can point to as exhibiting the kind of features he would like to see in Britain. Russia and other East European countries, though operating on planned economies, are condemned for their totalitarian political systems. Mr Hallas admires the way in which the Swiss cantons as an example of a self-governing democratic society. He stresses the need to devolve and diffuse government and authority so that ultimately no man has power over any other. He accepts that the result of this might well be chaos in terms of planning, but argues: "The worst people could be when they act collectively could hardly be worse than what happens now under the experts."

The SWP does not believe that its ideals can be achieved gradually through piecemeal reform. Mr Hallas says: "We don't aim to establish in Britain an East German or Chinese regime, but rather to liberate the potentialities for social development. We don't think this is possible without breaking the capitalist state, and that's why we are revolutionaries."

That revolution, he believes, will inevitably be accompanied by violence.

Although its main aim is revolution, there are immediate piecemeal policies that the Socialist Workers Party would like to see implemented. At the top of the list is the nationalization of key industries, banks and financial institutions. This despite Mr Hallas's insistence that it is grotesque to equate socialism with state ownership.

The party wants to see the institution of real workers' control, rather than worker participation in industry; the abolition of unearned income, and a first step taken towards eroding the monetary basis of the economy and the wage system by increasing the "social wage" given to people in the form of free services, so that wage differentials become less.

The party's concept of expanding the social wage gives perhaps the clearest insight into the kind of society that the SWP would like to see established. Mr Hallas advocates an expansion of services provided on a non-monetary basis, so that the principle on which a book is borrowed from a public library is extended to consumer goods. For him, "the idea is to break the drive to competitive accumulation which dominates our society, and the Russian one just as much."

How is this to be accomplished? Mr Hallas says: "We are out to build a mass working-class socialist movement on the basis of participation in

struggles against all kinds of oppression".

During the past few years the Socialist Workers Party has been involved in industrial disputes. It has organized groups in the car industry, the docks, the railways, and has established a presence in the miners' union, the National Union of Teachers, and the National Association of Local Government Officers. It played a part in the recent engineers' dispute at Heathrow, the docks wage claim, and disputes at the Chrysler car firm.

The SWP's involvement in the struggle against racism has involved it in taking a leading and often violent part in opposing the National Front.

Mr Hallas believes the Front is building a mass following on the basis of discontent. He says: "If there isn't an effective left-wing alternative at a time of crisis they will either take power or be lifted into power and play a major role in a right-wing coup."

He does, however, accept that both the Front and his own party are growing for the same reason, because of the erosion of the Labour Party, and that both organizations are gaining particular support from the young unemployed.

There are certainly similarities in outlook between the Front and the SWP. Both share the view that there is no freedom of the press in Britain since newspapers are controlled by a small group of very rich men. Both regard the policies of the three main political parties as irrelevant to the issues facing Britain in 1977, and both have equally apocalyptic views of the future.

Mr Hallas predicts increasing polarization in Britain with the Tories moving farther to the right, the National Front continuing to grow, and the Labour Party moving to the left, having lost the next election. He believes a leftward moving Labour Party will feed the growth of the far left since it will change attitudes among working people. He says: "This polarization in the end must lead to a fundamental conflict in society which will mean a transformation of the political system, either a revolution or a right-wing military fascist regime. I don't believe that the fact that cushioned our bourgeois democratic system is there any longer. The alternative is simply socialism or barbarism."

Ian Bradley

Praying for another Cluny in the church at Esztergom



Cardinal Lekay

Two small figures walked through a narrow door in the wall of the seminary. Both wore dark grey suits like thousands of elderly men in Budapest. The grey hair of the bald ones shone in the bright sunlight. The clock struck one when the people working at desks in the seminary entrance hall and the room beyond got up and greeted the two men as they walked through. I inquired of Cardinal Lekay's secretary who they were. Astonished, he replied: "Don't you know the cardinal? It was he and his Esztergom secretary, Father Horvath, who will receive you in a few minutes."

Esztergom was the first capital of Hungary; the Cardinal—in the old days he used to be called the Prince Primate—has his palace there. Held of it is a splendid museum, containing the treasures collected by the Prince Primate of Hungary throughout his career.

By the time I was shown into the office of Cardinal Lekay, he had changed into a plain black robe, only the cardinal's belt and head-cover indicating his high office.

For a few minutes we talked about unities—he was putting me at my ease. Correctly he guessed that I was moved as the office of Cardinal Lekay, he had changed into a plain black robe, only the cardinal's belt and head-cover indicating his high office.

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I asked the Rev Cardinal Archbishop—as he wishes to be addressed—what percentage of the children of Hungary received religious education, and of these what percentage remained practising Catholics.

"That varies greatly," he said. "In some areas for instance among the Paloc in northern Hungary, it is up to 80 per cent; in other areas it is as low as 30 per cent. I have not been able to carry out a census to find out the exact figures. The national census does not carry this information. But I hope one day—soon—to obtain an exact picture."

"You see, so much depends on the parents and the grandparents. In so many families both parents are at work, although the government is giving most generous aid to the little mothers—as we call those who bear several babies. I believe nowhere else do young mothers receive such generous support."

And they are getting value for their money? "We did not buy Carter we just elected him," replies Mr Doug Fraser, the autoworkers leader. Much the same might now be said of Mr Callaghan's Government, but that does not stop American union leaders casting some envious looks across the Atlantic.

A highly elaborate political operation reached out to more than 12 million voters on computer records and the unions claim a large measure of success in persuading their members to turn out and support their candidates. Touring the country's state AF of L CIO offices, you meet some intelligent and dedicated men leading the drive for a progressive political party. There is a sharp focus the tenuousness of the unions' political hold.

The modest results of their influence also contrasts with the scale of their efforts to get Democrats elected. Through its committee on political education, the AF of L CIO is extremely active at federal state and county level, in seeking to win office for candidates sympathetic to its views.

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Specific issues can unite a coalition of the unions, coloured groups, environmentalists and other progressive forces, but "there is no chance in hell of a Labour party here" is the rueful prediction of Mr John Hennion, secretary of the California AF of L CIO. His state policy paper reads like a Fabian manifesto, minus nationalization. But without a party to carry it through he is in a less powerful position to implement it than his English counterpart.

Paul Routledge
Labour Editor

In his article "Pity the poor bageder families" published on August 17, Oliver Sutcliffe said that the local government Ombudsman "recently copes each year with about 100 complaints about local authority administration". The Commission for Local Administration in England last year received 2,277 complaints against local and water authorities, made detailed inquiries about 381, and fully investigated and reported on 139.

Treasury officials in the United States have turned down the use of Jingle Bells to accompany a television commercial for champagne. Children's music cannot be played to help promote the sale of alcohol, they ruled.

Back to Dunkirk

Why, I asked Colonel A. J. Barker somewhat prudently, did he want to add yet another book about Dunkirk to the small mountain that already exists? "Because I have a German wife, and I felt that no-one had sufficiently given the German side of the affair", he said.

I did not believe he was wholly serious and said so. He yielded, but only slightly.

The other reason he wrote *Dunkirk: The Great Escape* (Dent, £5.55) was that he wanted to restore to the work Dunkirk its proper significance in the London Underground. Earlier this week, he saw a tourist advertisement about Big Ben's chimes having "broken down" for nine months. It explained him, in the "Dunkirk tradition", a major disaster had been averted.

A workmen's discussion on Waterloo-Bournemouth train included this thought for today: "The trouble with Catholics is—they take religion too seriously. It's not a hobby like with Protestants."

THE TIMES DIARY/PHS

Eurohistory: the new way to heal old scars?

British MPs in the European Parliament are taking a keen interest in the proposition, to be put forward next Tuesday in Luxembourg, for an authoritative "coordinated and comparative" History of Europe for schools.

The idea is that of Signor Michele Cifarelli, an Italian Socialist turned Liberal.

He says the need for such a history is now acute because all Europeans are looking forward to a new era in which they will elect a European Parliament direct. One hesitates to put in a caveat that the insular British may yet scupper the whole scheme for elections in May.

Signor Cifarelli thinks an EEC-backed history book would put an end to the "prejudiced and distorted picture" that young people in the Nine have about each other.

He may well be right. Certainly, an excellent source for material would be the centre for European cultural relations in Signor Cifarelli's Florence.

The entire enterprise could well be wrecked, however, on just one rock: the question of who will mastermind the book.

No admission for the men behind the women

There will be absolutely no point in Mr Callaghan, Mr Thatcher or Mr Whitehouse turning up to a film show at Finsbury Town Hall, north London next Tuesday. They will not be let in. Their wives will be, though. In fact the only men who will be admitted are journalists.

The whole thing is the brain child of the enterprising Peter Heims, a private investigator and editor of *Top Security International*. This monthly magazine has featured in this diary several times for the very good reason that it makes news where other magazines do not.

Mr Heims has invited Mrs Thatcher, Mrs Callaghan and Mrs Whitehouse to join any

woman over the age of 16 to watch two films about rape. One is called *Vulnerable to Attack*, showing women how to defend themselves. The other is *Help! I've been raped*, advising women what to do after a sexual attack.

Why is Mr Heims barring men from the screening? "I don't want them to find out what the opposition is doing," he says. Follow this line of logic. But I have more difficulty in understanding why male journalists, diary writers included, are exempted. A final thought about the film show, which is free. The two films were imported from America. What on earth are our own documentary film-makers doing?

Paul Routledge
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SOCIAL NEWS

Princess Alexandra will open Williams Court, flats of the Royal British Legion Housing Association, at Narberth, Dyfed, on November 3.

A memorial service for Colonel I. G. Daniel will be held at St Margaret's, Westminster, on Thursday, September 22, at noon.

A service of thanksgiving in memory of Major-General G. E. Prior-Palmer will be held at St James's Church, Piccadilly, on Thursday, September 29, at noon.

Birthdays today

Sir Peter Allen, 72; Professor Sir Derek Barton, 59; Sir John Brown, 64; Mr Frank Cousins, 73; Professor Willi Frischauer, 71; Sir Denis Lasdun, 62; the Marquess of Lorne, 55; Sir Oliver Letwin, 46; Sir William Oliver, 66; Air Vice-Marshal Sir John Scriven, 69; Mr Harry Secombe, 55; Mr Peter Sellers, 52; Mr Henry F. Tiarks, 77.

Latest appointments

Latest appointments include: Mr D. F. Hawley, formerly assistant under-secretary of state (public departments) Foreign and Commonwealth Office, to be British High Commissioner to Malaysia, in succession to Sir Eric Norris, who is retiring in November. Mrs Catherine McMaster, senior lecturer, left economics, Queen Mary College, University of London, to be a member of the Food Standards Committee until August 31, 1981.

Today's engagements

City businessmen's service, St Mary Woolnoth City, 10.30am. Talk by Mr Gordon Donald, on the use and misuse of words. St Olave's, Hart Street, City, 1.05. Lunchtime music: All Hallows by the Tower, Professor Gordon Phillips, organ, 12.15 and 1.15; St Mary Woolnoth, Mr David Pearson, organ, 1.15. Exhibition of London Salon of Photography, Arnhem Gallery, Fairfields Hall, Croydon, 10.30-3.30. London River, exhibition by Wapping artists, Royal Exchange, City, 10-4. Walks: Around London Wall, meet St Paul's station, 7; Jack the Ripper anniversary walk, meet Tower Hill station, 9.

Bedford School

The Christmas Term begins today with 1,110 boys in the school. Lord Bedford will be the guest of honour at the annual prize giving at 11.30 am on Thursday, October 27. *The Merchant of Venice* will be performed in the great hall on December 8, 9 and 10. Mr M. E. Barlow, succeeds Mr R. W. Roseveare as the vice-master, and Mr P. D. Legge becomes headmaster of Reddin. Mr K. D. Dorman is head of the school, and R. J. Boyd-Moss, captain of rugby football. Term ends on Tuesday, December 13.

Finewood School
The Council of Finewood School have appointed Mr Henry Bedington to be headmaster from Easter, 1978, when Mr Geoffrey Walters retires as headmaster.

Stationers' scholarship
A £500 travelling scholarship is being offered by the Stationers' and Newspaper Makers' Companies. The Stationers' Travelling Scholarship is open to those aged between 18 and 35, of British nationality, who are employed in, or intend making their careers in, one of the trades of the guild. Interviews will be held early next year, and application forms may be obtained from the City of The Stationers' Company, Stationers' Hall, Ludgate Hill, London, EC4M 7DD. Applications close on December 19.

Archbishop Makarios
A forty-day memorial service for the repose of the soul of Archbishop Makarios, of Cyprus, Grand Protector of the Orthodox Hospital, will be held at St Sava, September 10, at 2.30 pm, at the Russian Orthodox Cathedral, Ennismore Gardens, London, SW7.

Slices of Roman Britain at £862 for eighth of an acre

By Jacob Ecclestone
A property company is planning to sell plots of land on the site of one of Britain's most important Roman towns. If it is successful, and enough Americans, or Britons, can be persuaded to part with £862 for an eighth of an acre, a trust will be set up, funded by a third of all receipts.

The fund will be used to pay for archaeological research at Calleva Atrebatum, now a small Hampshire town of Silchester.

The 100-acre site, surrounded by third-century Roman walls which stand 20ft in places, was bought by Lilywhite Properties in 1974. It was part of a much larger estate being sold by the Duke of Wellington for more than £1m.

The company, after changing hands, has devised the scheme for selling 800 plots to anyone who cares to own a bit of Roman Britain.

Mr Hugh Becker, the agent acting for Lilywhite, said yesterday that the first priority was to protect the site. It was hoped to sell plots to English people "because we do not want to see the heritage sold abroad", though he

added that the company would be happy if Americans came forward to buy.

Mr Becker, who has already sounded out opinions on the scheme, said his company intended to marketing it in November.

By way of payment, potential buyers will be offered a suitably engraved clay tablet attesting to their ownership, an annual report of any excavations at the site, a copy of the most authoritative book on the Roman town of Calleva, and, presumably, free admission should they wish to inspect the dwarfish estate.

What the legal title will not include is any right to turn over so much as a spoonful of soil, or ownership of anything found on the site.

The Department of the Environment controls the walls and the pre-Roman ditch under a "guardianship monument" order, also had the enclosed 100 acre scheduled as an ancient monument earlier this year.

On the face of it the scheme might have been designed to provoke chauvinistic indignation; in

stead, archaeologists with expertise knowledge of the site fear that the plots will not sell. In that case there is no trust fund and no prospect of any large-scale digging.

The Department of the Environment, although suitably cautious, could see advantages in the scheme, particularly the prospect of some money for a new museum on the site.

The department is taking good care that it gets a look at the proposed title deeds, however, since the prospect of hundreds of freeholders conjures up visions of legal quagmire.

Mr George Jones, of the National Museum of Wales and author of a book on Calleva, said yesterday that it was "the maddest thing I ever heard of... but I very much hope the scheme gets off to a good start".

It was already the most extensively excavated site of its kind in the Roman empire, he said, but the trust fund offered a wonderful chance to "have a new look at the ground".

Although its existence was known by the early eighteenth century, it was not until 1890 that

systematic excavation inside the walls of Calleva was begun. Then, after nearly twenty years' work, in which the only known Christian church of Roman Britain was unearthed, the dig stopped and the excavations ended.

One of the objects of scheduling the excavated land earlier this year was to prevent further ploughing, which Department of the Environment experts feared was damaging buried structures. From this autumn all the land above Calleva will be put to grass.

Dr Michael Fulford, a lecturer in archaeology at Reading University, said yesterday that the site for the department since 1974, told me that the proposed trust fund might be a way of helping sales by the property company, but it would also provide a way of holding the company to the ground plots.

"Anybody buying the land does so with a whole series of covenants," he said, "so if you pull up a stone, or do anything, we'll be told."

With the property company holding to get nearly £7,000 an acre for farmland, the archaeolo-

gists hoping to get some money for a new excavation using modern methods, and the Environment hoping to get a new income with permanent on-site staff, the only people who are less than keen are the villagers of Silchester.

They are apprehensive lest any large-scale publicity and development should mean the end of their rural peace, with their country lane choked by sightseers.

To throw the matter out, and perhaps allay some fears, Lady Ashton, chairman of the parish council at Silchester, has called a meeting next week so that the village can have their say.

"Villagers are worried," she said. "If the site can be excavated carefully it is not up to us to say 'no', but we are worried that it will not be done sympathetically."

Mr A. P. D. Smyth, chairman of the trustees of the village museum, said: "People do not want to be happy about it, but I have to say that it is going to be difficult to stop. People are rather sad about bits of our history being sold off like this."

OBITUARY

PROF. J. E. LITTLEWOOD

Pioneer pure mathematician

Professor J. E. Littlewood, FRS, FRAS, Rouse Ball Professor of Mathematics at the University of Cambridge from 1928 to 1950 died on September 6 at the age of 92. John Edward Littlewood was born at Rochester on June 9, 1882, son of Edward Thornton Littlewood, who had taken his degree from Peterhouse as 9th wrangler in the Mathematical Tripos in 1882. From 1892 to 1900, J. E. lived in South Africa, where his father was a schoolmaster. In 1900 he returned to England and, to go to St Paul's School, where the scholarship class was taught by F. S. Macaulay, a creative mathematician who later became a Fellow of the Royal Society. In 1903 he went to Cambridge as a scholar of Trinity, having already learned from Macaulay to distinguish between the vital ideas of mathematics and examination tricks. Success in Part II of the Mathematical Tripos depended on acquiring from such a faculty in rapid sojourns of spiritual and eternal values," said Anglesey.

It is only in the case of churches that this argument is not always valid. No one demands that the historic buildings in the care of the Department of the Environment should be put to use, or the houses made over to the National Trust.

The Ministry is a motion congratulating the Government on its new scheme to help with the maintenance of historic churches, which has begun to operate.

Lord Anglesey said that he hoped that the new scheme would bring a recognition that a beautiful and historic church fulfils its best use merely by existing as a perpetual reminder in a restless world of spiritual and eternal values," said Anglesey.

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Mr Healey reminds CBI of pledge to boost investments in return for union restraint

By Maurice Corraine
Industrial Editor

An appeal for industrialists to accelerate their plans for new investment was made by Mr Healey, Chancellor of the Exchequer, at a working dinner held in private last night with leaders of the Confederation of British Industry.

He apparently laid great stress on the restoration of corporate profitability, lower interest rates, a stronger pound, and the arrival of North Sea oil as reasons for spurring on some CBI initiative.

There is great disappointment in government circles that an expected growth in capital spending has not materialized after the tight rein kept on the public spending by the CBI's urging.

Mr Healey, who was accompanied by Mr Hattersley, Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection, is understood to have represented strongly that with the TUC vote the 12-month pay settlement interval, some tangible evidence of higher investment is needed in weighing up the scope for some stimulus to the economy.

The danger, as seen by the Government, is that trade unionists may not fully respond to restraint if a large proportion

of profits, reflected by a buoyant stock market and the flow of good company results, is not ploughed back into industrial expansion at a level promised under the economic strategy approved by the International Monetary Fund.

For their part, industrialists stressed that uncertainties over pay and prices policies was one reason for hesitation in some boardrooms. In view of the TUC vote yesterday, the CBI feels employers will now be in a better position to back the Government's pay policy, whereas some weeks ago it was deeply troubled over the outcome.

First returns from the CBI's new pay data bank indicate that the line is being held within government guidelines, even though pay claims for more than two million workers in a range of 20 to 30 per cent have been recorded. The employers promised to stand firm if the Government played its part in the public sector.

Nonetheless, the Government is under strong TUC pressure to push up the rate of investment, while 6 per cent of the national labour force is unemployed.

Capital expenditure in private manufacturing was, together with exports, allotted the

Shawcross criticisms on Department of Trade investigations under Companies Acts

By Christopher Wilkins

Lord Shawcross, chairman of the Panel on Takeovers and Mergers, has used his annual report to make serious criticisms of the system under which Department of Trade inspectors investigate the affairs of companies under the Companies Acts.

Stating that "the statutory machinery under the Companies Acts can, without undue bureaucratisation, be made more efficient", he criticises the system on three main grounds.

The first, which was raised in the recent court dispute involving Norwest Holt and the Department of Trade, is that it is not always obvious, even after the event, why an Inspectorate is or is not set up in a particular case.

Lord Shawcross also points to the "sometimes inevitable delays in bringing an enquiry,

once established, to its conclusion", noting that the enquiry into the Pergamon affair took eight years.

Thirdly he says there are possible "inherent risks" in the appointment of "unreliable persons" as inspectors and the occasional tendency of such persons to exceed their powers and give expression to "obiter dicta outside their legitimate terms of reference but without any right of appeal".

The Panel's annual report also outlines two important new guidelines, one relating to takeovers and the other to the obligations of financial advisers.

Under the existing Rule 4 of the Takeover Code companies which have received a bid are required to obtain competent independent advice for shareholders.

The Code does not require the offeror company to seek independent advice, but the

Panel is now recommending that in certain circumstances for instance where there are cross holdings between the two companies and a number of directors common to both companies independent advisers should be brought in.

The Panel is particularly concerned that such advice should be obtained "where there is an apparent conflict of interest between companies, their boards or their large shareholders". Outside advice is also recommended in the event of a reverse takeover.

At present the new guidelines carry over the status of Panel recommendations but it seems likely that they will be considered for inclusion in the Takeover Code when it is next revised.

After a case last year in which a director of merchant bank N. M. Rothschild was censured in connexion with a

bid by Sime Darby for Seafied Amalgamated Rubber, the Panel has now spelt out where it considers the prime obligations of a financial adviser lie.

It says that when, during the course of a Panel inquiry, an adviser has reason to doubt the accuracy or completeness of information being provided by his client his overriding duty should be brought in.

The Panel is particularly concerned that such advice should be obtained "where there is an apparent conflict of interest between companies, their boards or their large shareholders".

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Further fall likely in minimum lending rate

By John Whitmore
Financial Correspondent

The Bank of England's minimum lending rate seems set to be reduced further tomorrow with the fifteenth cut in the rate this year.

However, if he believes his client intends to mislead the Panel despite his advice and decides to resign, he would not then have any obligations to tell the Panel of his misgivings about his former client.

The Confederation of British Industry, which is represented on the Panel, has supported the need for full disclosure and has accepted that the financial adviser should not be expected to shield a client who was trying to mislead the Panel.

Financial Editor, page 17

NYSE chief in call to resist 'off floor' trading

From Frank Vogl
US Economic Correspondent

Tokyo, Sept. 7

Britain would expect Japanese car producers to buy up to £100m worth of British car components within the next three years, partly to offset the lapsed trade balance between the two industries, Mr David Plastow, chairman of the British Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders, said here today.

Mr Plastow and a delegation from SMMT, who met their counterparts in the Japan Automobile Manufacturers Association for consultative talks this week, pointed out that Japan expected to export 120,000 vehicles to the United Kingdom this year while Britain's share of the Japanese market still stood at 3,000 units.

During the talks, JAMA assured the British delegation that Japan would not increase its share of the British car market this year beyond the present self-imposed limit of 10 per cent.

Asked whether the British car producers pointed out that other foreign manufacturers were increasing their share of the British market.

Reviewing the meeting at a press conference today, Mr Plastow said that the British side did not threaten to adopt unilateral measures to protect Britain's motor industry. But he expressed his concern over the importance of trade in motor products between the two countries.

"I cannot honestly say whether Japan's share of the British market will exceed the 10 per cent barrier", he said.

In addition, Mr Batten said investors may find themselves increasingly transacting business in listed stocks with dealers, rather than through brokers acting on their behalf.

Dealers expect the circumstances leading up to the collapse of Bond Worth had been thoroughly unsatisfactory.

"Only four months before its

UK makers put case for £100m car parts sales in Japan

From Peter Hazelhurst

Tokyo, Sept. 7

Mr William Batten, chairman of the New York Stock Exchange, is now striving to rally support from American stockbrokers to oppose a bid by the Securities and Exchange Commission to repeal "off board trading" rules with effect from January 1, 1978.

He has written to members of the NYSE, Mr Batten said, that this was an issue of "grave urgency" and he was convinced that the proposal would, in effect, drastically alter the way in which stocks were traded and priced.

The proposal would make it possible for brokers to conduct their business from their own offices and no longer make the stock exchanges a key form.

Mr Batten asserted that there were major dangers in this new proposal. He outlined these dangers at greater length in a letter on August 30 to members of the New York Exchange. He said the proposal would see the markets for listed stocks fragmented to the great disadvantage of small investors and small brokerage companies in particular.

Mr Batten stated that the larger brokerage companies would have a great advantage because of their larger order flow and strong capital position. They would be able to dominate the brokerage industry and this could lead, in time, to securities business being done by just a handful of very big corporations.

In addition, Mr Batten said investors may find themselves increasingly transacting business in listed stocks with dealers, rather than through brokers acting on their behalf.

Dealers expect the circumstances leading up to the collapse of Bond Worth had been thoroughly unsatisfactory.

"Only four months before its

aware that Japan will promote international protectionism if it damages key industries abroad.

"They expressed some understanding of the difficulties of reconstruction in the British motor industry."

Poising out that Britain had built up one of the finest motor component industries in the world, with a total sales volume of £150m, Mr Plastow said sales to Japan were limited to a mere £5m a year.

"This is one area where Japan can help to offset the imbalance. We pointed out that the jobs of a half million people are at stake in the motor industry in the United Kingdom this year while

Britain's share of the Japanese market still stood at 3,000 units.

During the talks, JAMA assured the British delegation that Japan would not increase its share of the British car market this year beyond the present self-imposed limit of 10 per cent.

At the same time Japanese car producers pointed out that other foreign manufacturers were increasing their share of the British market.

Reviewing the meeting at a press conference today, Mr Plastow said that the British side did not threaten to adopt unilateral measures to protect Britain's motor industry. But he expressed his concern over the importance of trade in motor products between the two countries.

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investors may find themselves increasingly transacting business in listed stocks with dealers, rather than through brokers acting on their behalf.

Dealers expect the circumstances leading up to the collapse of Bond Worth had been thoroughly unsatisfactory.

"Only four months before its

collapse, Equity Capital for Industry and Institutions had injected a large amount of money into the company, which gave confidence to its suppliers", he said. "The failure of these institutions and ECI properly to assess the situation is, in my opinion, frankly disgraceful."

Mr Wake was reporting CI half-year profits down from £1.7m to £570,000 before tax—a result largely of losses in Australia having risen from £300,000 to £154m. The interim dividend is cut from 3.5p gross to 2.5p.

Financial Editor, page 17

One of the principal creditors of the collapsed Bond Worth car group yesterday attacked Equity Capital for Industry and Institutions, which had given the company a large amount of confidence in its suppliers.

"They were impressed by the quality of our components and they have corrected their views on labour unrest.

ECI aid to Bond Worth criticized

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Approval for BP to start drilling in Buchan field

By Our Industrial Correspondent

BP was yesterday given permission to start developing the Buchan oilfield, about 90 miles north-east of Aberdeen. The Department of Energy has told the company it has approved the drilling of a single development well, a source of some disappointment to BP, which had sought consent to drill five wells.

The drilling rig, Deep Sea Saga, is expected at the field today and is scheduled to "spud in" the first well by the end of the week.

Last night the company said it had not yet decided whether or not the field would be exploited through a fixed production platform. Buchan lies in block 2/1 and is a small field compared with the Brent and Forties fields.

Various estimates have been made of the field's production potential ranging from reserves of 115 million to 250 million barrels. Peak production could be between 50,000 and 100,000 barrels daily.

BP became involved in the field development in June after its acquisition of a controlling interest from three smaller companies.

Amoco's Celtic move: The unit well in the United Kingdom sector of the Celtic Sea has been completed by Amoco UK Exploration. The rig, Chris Chenevix, is preparing to move off the location on block 93/6 to another drilling target, understood to be offshore Spain.

No announcement has yet been made by Amoco on the results of 93/6-1. The company's second wellbore in the United Kingdom will be in the Cumbria sector of the Celtic Sea. But the presence of 7-inch well casing, run into the supply base at Pembroke Dock and kept standing by the rig aboard a supply ship, raised speculation in some quarters that Amoco may have thought a testing programme was in prospect before the hole reached its total depth.

IMI titanium chief calls for action to combat American protectionism

By Clifford Webb

Dr Tom Farthing, managing director of IMI Titanium, Europe's largest and Britain's only producer of titanium, yesterday launched the sharpest attack yet on "American protectionism which excludes all imported titanium from the vast United States military aerospace market".

He said that allied with Japanese dumping in Europe it constituted a serious threat to a key British industry at a time when worldwide titanium demand was depressed.

Strong representations had been made by IMI to the British Government and the European Commission in Brussels but they had replied that the whole question of trade barriers would have to wait for a review to be undertaken at the next round of talks by the General Agreement on Tariffs and in Geneva this autumn.

Co-op signs £4m contract for ICL equipment

By Kenneth Owen, Technology Correspondent

As part of the Co-operative Wholesale Society's plan to build a national computer network, a £4m contract was signed in Manchester yesterday with International Computers, Britain's main computer manufacturer.

This is the largest single commercial order yet obtained by ICL. It includes three medium-size Model 2960 central computers, 40 terminal systems and 30 small "transaction" computers.

It brings to £6m the orders placed by the CWS with ICL over the past 18 months. The society has standardized on ICL equipment for its five regional computing centres.

The three Model 2960 computers (for delivery in 1979) will be installed at the society's computer group headquarters in Manchester.

"It is my fear, however, that Britain's titanium interests will be traded off against some other allegedly more important product," Dr Farthing said.

"Superficially it is easy to discount us as a small employer—only 930 people in the whole of IMI Titanium, and a turnover of £20m—but we also have a vital strategic role which stretches from aerospace to chemicals and power generation."

He said the need to protect this strategic role of the American industry had produced a special Act of Congress which laid down that military aerospace projects should only use United States titanium. In addition there was a blanket 18 per cent tariff barrier against foreign titanium.

The combination effectively excluded imports while our "softer approach", an 8 per cent tariff in Europe, permitted American companies to range at will in our markets.

"It goes against the grain for me to say it but I am now of the view that Europe should itself take protectionist measures if only as a bargaining tool to open markets," Dr Farthing asserted. He was speaking at the opening of a new automatic tube welding line at Waunarlwydd, South Wales.

IMI is the world's biggest manufacturer of seamless titanium tube but the trend is increasingly towards the cheaper welded tube. Already the new facility has enabled the company to win the largest contract for seam welded titanium tube ever placed in the United Kingdom. The Central Electricity Generating Board has ordered 150 miles of corrosion-proof condenser tubing for its Tilbury B power station.

ICI assesses damage to dyestuffs plant after blast

By Peter Hill

Executives of ICI and officials of the Health and Safety Executive of the Department of Employment were last night investigating the cause of an explosion at the dyestuff producing plant at the ICI complex at Grangemouth, on the Firth of Forth.

The explosion which occurred early yesterday caused thousands of pounds worth of damage and led to the shut down of the dye-producing section of the plant. Most of its capacity is export.

The blast occurred in a vessel used in the production of dyestuff intermediates which go to the textile industry for the colouring of cellulose fabrics.

Three fire stations were called in to deal with the explosion. Police blocked off the main link road from Grangemouth docks to the M9 motorway, which lies close to the plant.

About 100 workers are employed at the plant but no one was injured during the shutdown.

ICI manufactures the dyestuffs at other locations, notably Trafford Park, Manchester, and a plant in Brazil. This type of dyestuff was introduced in 1956 and represented a break-through in dyestuff technology.

Despite the textile recession ICI has developed markets in the Middle and Far East for the reactive dyes.

According to the company about 80 per cent of the reactive dyestuff production from the two plants in the United Kingdom is exported. Last night ICI was assessing how the shutdown could be met. Last year it exported a total of £45m worth of organic chemical products, and most of the exports were dyestuffs.

A spokesman for ICI said that it was not possible yet to estimate the full cost of the damage.

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Similar equipment has been sold in large quantities to overseas markets.

A hazard evaluation of Shell's proposed 125-mile natural gas liquids pipeline from St Fergus to Fife is to be undertaken by the Government's Health and Safety Executive.

This is agreed to yesterday by Grampian regional planning committee, which earlier objected along with four north-east district council to the pipeline designed to carry Brent field gas to the company's proposed complex at Mossmorran, Fife.

Bowater investment

Bowater Corporation is to spend £5m on capital equipment for the conversion of paper recycling machine, which formerly manufactured newsprint, at the Kemsley mill in Kent. The project is expected to be supported by a grant from the Government, from which approval is now being sought.

Given the opportunity, the British people will work as

particular cases, where necessary in the national interest, the public ownership of foreign-owned multinational subsidiaries or branches should be considered. However, the prospects of such a proposal are not ignored.

Such a policy has serious drawbacks. The British part of a foreign-owned multinational is only part of a worldwide operation. It is probably not capable of operating on its own, without the remainder of the group or its equivalent.

The document states that in

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Though the party has been pressing for planning agreements since 1973, the Labour Government has run into strong objections from industry and has made little headway in achieving their introduction.

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BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

All eyes on interest rates

A moderation signal was duly delivered by the Bank of England to the discount market yesterday. But it was very much a case of asking for moderation rather than demanding stability. With the TUC votes going the right way and sterling looking perkier again, downward pressure on interest rates is mounting once more. And on this occasion it is going to be very much more difficult for the banks and building societies not to follow the trend fairly swiftly.

From the political point of view it must all sound delightful. Whether the monetary authorities are quite so happy about the way things are developing is another matter. On the face of it, there is probably no particular objection, per se, to United Kingdom interest rates coming into line with North American rates, or even moving below them as they did in the early seventies. There are, however, other considerations.

The first is whether or not a further fall in interest rates will in fact deter further inflows of hot money so long as there is the thought around that sterling may still be allowed to appreciate further. The second is whether the process of recycling short-term liquidity along a steep yield curve is a sustainable operation. The third is the lagged effect of falling short-term rates on bank lending and the money supply. It may well be, however, that the authorities will want several more months of news input from the labour front before they have the confidence to consider a change in strategy.

Breaking new ground, the Takeover Panel is now recommending that independent advisers should be called in under certain circumstances to tell shareholders in an offer company whether the terms of a bid for another business are fair. Until now such independent advice has been required only in the case of an offeree company.

Specifically the Panel has in mind circumstances where a potential conflict of interest might arise between a board and outside shareholders, say, where there are directors common to the two companies or cross shareholdings.

But much seems reasonable enough. But it is less easy to see why the Panel should recommend automatic independent advice in the event of a reverse takeover—defined as when an offer company would need to issue more than 100 per cent of its present capital. There is no particular reason why a reverse takeover should necessarily involve conflicts of interest of the kind that call for independent advice for shareholders.

However, the Panel is definitely not trying to suggest that advisers should become involved in the strategic decisions but only in assessing the terms. So there should be no question of advisers interposing themselves between directors and shareholders on the critical issue of whether a company is actually moving in the direction the shareholders want.

Composite insurers

Guardian Royal out of step

Disappointing interim figures from Guardian Royal Exchange upset the composite insurance market yesterday, the outcome being that profit takers were allowed to get the upper hand even in Sun Alliance and Phoenix, whose results were fully up to expectations.

With much lower exposure in North America—virtually nil in GRE's case—the three groups were not expected to keep pace with the growth recently reported by Commercial Union and General Accident, both of whom have benefited considerably from loss-elimination in American underwriting.

But mere 10 per cent improvement in GRE's pre-tax profits to £26.3m was out of step with the improvements of around two-fifths to £30.4m and £17.2m reported by Sun Alliance and Phoenix respectively.

In GRE's case the explanation lies in a dramatic swing from a short-term underwriting profit of £790,000 last time to a loss of £4.3m this time brought about partly by problems on the motor account where a higher claims ratio has combined with consumer resistance to premium rates.

However, unlike Sun Alliance and

Phoenix, GRE has decided to take no account of first-half Canadian profits—possibly more than £1m—because of uncertainties caused by the Anti-Inflation Board. Currency swings have undoubtedly also gone against GRE in the first-half and there could at least be a significant improvement on this front although European underwriting business remains dismal.

At home, Sun Alliance, particularly has benefited from the virtual absence of storm damage, which cost something over £3m last time, although this has been partially offset by continuing subsidence claims. Recent weather conditions however point



Lord Aldington, chairman of Sun Alliance.

to Sun Alliance as one of the major housing cover writers seeing substantial improvements in the second-half. Sun Alliance could go on to full-year profits of £63m and Phoenix £37m while it is perhaps too early to write down earlier estimates of around £68m from GRE. So although the underwriting cycle is now entering a slower phase the composite's share yielding around 5½ per cent could still offer attractions despite the recent run-up.

Carpets

Bond Worth reverberations

Given the depressed state of the carpet industry, which has already seen the demise of one major with the receivership of Bond Worth, Carpets International did well perhaps to confine its half-year profits decline in the home market to 12 per cent. But Australia remained a running sore and after three years of losses CIP's confidence that its interests there will be trading profitably by the end of the year may not be shared by the stock market.

Both at home and abroad CI seems to be simply stemming the tide. It may not be the company's fault, but that is little consolation for subscribers to last year's £3.78m rights issue whose interim dividend has been cut from 3½p gross to 2½p. Profits in the half were down from £1.7m to £570,000 with losses in Australia rising from £830,000 to £1.54m.

Over capacity in the industry has been generated over the past few years with the large increases in production for the cheaper tufted ranges which followed trading down by consumers.

CI followed the trend into tufted production although keeping away from the cheapest ranges produced by Bond Worth and kept a broad approach to the market. The protection provided by the higher quality end, now seems to be wavering—export profits were down in the half—and a restoration of the dividend for the full year will depend on current projections of stronger home sales in the second six months proving correct, coupled with sharply reduced losses in Australia.

There is no guarantee of either through the closure of Australian Axminster plant may have done the trick here. In the United Kingdom CI suffered only a nominal loss due to the Bond Worth debacle thanks to adequate bad debt provisions, but Bond Worth's demise could still affect prices. For CI borrowings are on a rising trend which will be difficult to reverse at present, so the shares, down 11p at 62p yesterday, should be left alone, despite a yield of 11.6 per cent assuming of course that the final dividend is maintained.

It was hard to concentrate on Baker's account of how Continental will be able to concentrate all three of its London offices into the one building.

He showed an artist's impression of the refurbished building, which apart from some new trees outside, looked just as gaudy as the PHS of Corgi's fond memory.

Ironically this may be his last TUC as well as his first, at least in his present incarnation, for Ellis and his association are now talking to Bill McCall's Institution of Professional Civil Engineers about a merger.

Ellis's mandarins were affilitated to the TUC only last month. "The crème de la crème, they sell me," said Len Murray. "They are all cream to me."

Ellis has arrived here, somewhat bemused, after a motion for affiliation from the association's Department of Health and Social Security branch, subsequently approved narrowly by a ballot of the membership which had an amazing 80 per cent turnout.

A number of resignations have followed, which I have heard put at between 50 and 90, but which Ellis will only describe cautiously as "a few". Some members, particularly lawyers, were worried about a possible knock to their professional self-esteem in belonging to the TUC, while others, like myself, were worried about being seen to give impartial advice to ministers on the sensitive topics of wage and price control while send-

ing delegates to TUC.

Ellis, however, was quite explicit when I asked him whether he had yet noticed any benefits from affiliation. Was it true, for example, that the association was invited to sit on the important policy-making Committee A of the staff side of the Civil Service. Whiteley Council on the very day he formally applied to Len Murray for affiliation. He confirmed that this was so.

Was there any connection between the two, I asked? "It's a remarkable coincidence," he told me. "We've had an application in for a seat on this committee for the past 10 years."

The engagement is announced not of two people but

Pay claims: will the TUC stand up to the test?

THE STATE OF PAY CLAIMS

Postponed Stage 2 settlements

	Number	Due
Merchant Navy Officers	45,000	June 1977
IC1 manual and clerical workers	71,000	June/July
Fleet Street journalists	4,500	July
Chrysler manual workers	20,000	July
Clearing bank staff	145,000	July
Gas staff	50,000	July

Reopened Stage 2 settlements

	1977
Miners	260,000
ASLEF train drivers	29,000
Post Office engineers	127,000

Stage 3 settlements programme

Month of last settlement	Numbers
September (1976) Police	118,000
Dockers	30,000
Vauxhall	34,000
October Fleet Street manual workers	33,000
Ford	57,000
November Local authority manual workers	1,100,000
December NHS ancillary workers	238,000
January Post Office	220,000
Steel manual workers	118,000
Gas manual	50,000
March Electricity supply manual workers	105,000
April Teachers	568,000
Nurses	420,000
Civil servants	500,000
British Railmen	180,000
May Engineering workers	1,500,000
Chemical workers	48,000
Retail distribution	140,000
June Building workers	600,000
July Local authority non-manual workers	320,000
Industrial civil servants	170,000

Source: Rowe Rudd & Co.

serious defections over wage restraint, but the narrowing of what the majority in favour of an incomes policy was going to be screwed down.

The 12-month rule, the 10 per cent figure and cash limits comprise an effective phase three.

In the private sector the transport workers will be important. With almost two million members scattered throughout British industry and the public services, the union is in a position effectively to scupper the 12-month rule, but Mr Jack Jones expects his executive meeting later this month to abide by the collective decision of congress.

The miners, who voted against wage restraint, are a more difficult case. They have a claim for £135 as a week for face-workers from November 1, only eight months after their last settlement. But, in the wake of the TUC decision, moderates who dominate the Executive of the National Union of Mineworkers may argue that responsibility lies with the rest of the Labour movement, particularly the left-wing speaker who took their views to the rostrum and treated with less than fraternal enthusiasm.

The idea of a pit productivity deal which would be permissible under the bargaining rules is likely to be revived later this month.

The constitutional argument within the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers, that led to the spectacle of union delegates publicly disagreeing with their president when he cast a card vote for the 12-month rule, is an unhappy omen for the future. Apart from provoking a fierce internal row in the AUEW, it is expected to diminish the authority of the decision in factories and workshops where militant shop stewards rule the roost.

The policy-making body of the dominant engineering section of the union has been recalled in November to discuss the shape of a pay claim to put to the Engineering Employers Federation. The dispute will be revived there, though in the meantime the engineering workers who strike in support of pay claims that breach TUC policy will look in vain to their leaders for support.

Clearly, much will depend on the political trade-off between the TUC and the Government for the next two years.

This marriage has come about as a result of the Sex Discrimination Act, under which by January 1 unions must treat the sexes equally—and that includes contributions as well as benefits.

One other result of the Act, says Ethel Chipchase, secretary of the TUC's women's advisory committee and a member of the Equal Opportunities Commission, is that it is now harder to find out just how many of the TUC's members are women.

Both Blackpool's MPs, Norman Ellis and Peter Blaikie, are Tories, and the corporation is Tory-controlled, but the town is very glad to see the 1,150 TUC delegates. Although the famous illuminations were switched on last Friday, there are plenty of signs advertising vacancies in the boarding houses. A Blackpool hotelier I spoke to said that this was the first illuminations season she could remember when there were vacancies even on the sea-front.

Economic notebook

A not so free for all

Trade union leaders have more sense than governments credit them with, according to adherents of the monetarist school of economics.

If, they argue, the Government publicly announces a target for money supply growth, and demonstrates a convincing commitment to achieving it, union leaders will, when making pay claims, take full account of this and the implications for jobs.

The coming months are likely to provide the first major test of this proposition in relation to Britain. It will not, however, be the only test to be tested. The case against pay policies has for many people turned on the belief that, quite apart from creating anomalies and inefficiencies, pay restraint only succeeds in damping up wage claims until, with the collapse of the policy, they are released in a torrent.

If, in the coming year, there is no wage explosion and nemesis is avoided, monetarists will be able to claim a practical success for their doctrine, while advocates of incomes policies will be able simultaneously to show that the achievements of phases one and two of the voluntary restraint programme have remained intact.

On the other hand, should the feared wage explosion take place, the nostrums of monetarists and incomes policy advocates alike could look more than a little sorry.

Certainly, there are big differences between the effective end of the 1975-77 pay restraint policy and the termination of such policies in the past. The tough stances of both fiscal and monetary policy this time is one of industrial unison.

The return to collective wage bargaining after the incomes policy of Mr Heath's Government lapsed, occurred at a time of economic expansion and followed more than two years of substantial monetary growth. Unemployment was less than half of what it is today. Resistance to wage restraint was low.

Since then corporate profits have slumped. Although, subsequently, profits have been partially rebuilt, this trend has not gone so far as to suggest that the majority of companies are in a position to meet substantial pay claims.

Mr Murray counsels observers of the TUC to take into account the mood of congress as well as the votes and language of the motions, and Mr Bill Sirs, the steelworkers' leader, diagnosed what is happening on the shopfloor as "not a wage explosion but an explosion of discontent".

It will stretch the resources and ingenuity of the TUC to ensure that discontent does not find expression in the traditional outlet of militancy.

Paul Routledge

Melvyn Westlake

SUN ALLIANCE & LONDON INSURANCE GROUP

INTERIM STATEMENT

The Directors have declared an interim dividend for 1977 of 10.0p per share, costing £4,930,000. With the tax credit of 5.152p per share the "gross" equivalent is 15.152p per share. Last year, the interim dividend was 8.8p per share, the "gross" equivalent being 13.538p per share. The maximum dividend that can be paid for the year 1977 under current legislation is 20.154p per share.

Shareholders will also receive the deferred element of the final dividend for the year 1976, declared at the Annual General Meeting in May of 0.142p per share (0.215p "gross"), costing £70,000, to the benefit of the retrospective reduction in the rate of Advance Corporation Tax.

Both dividends will be paid on 6th January, 1978, to shareholders registered on 1st December, 1977.

ESTIMATED HALF-YEAR RESULTS

	6 months to 30th June 1977	6 months to 30th June 1976	Year

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FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

Stock markets

Construction issues lead the way ahead

In another day of heavy trading, especially among the second-line stocks, share prices rose strongly for a fourth consecutive session with the FT Index moving inexorably towards its best-ever level.

Such was the strength of early trading that there were hopes that the record 543.5—set in May, 1972—could be beaten in one leap. But with the market looking "a bit tired" towards the close some profits being taken the index lost ground after 2 pm when it stood

Rumours that Dr Dan Macdonald, ex-chairman of BSR, now living in Switzerland, had placed a large proportion of his near 10 per cent holding in motor component group Wilmot-Breeden, which could have been the prelude to a bid, can be discounted. There were dealers in the shares yesterday, but nothing of the size of the 1.3 million put-through that was said to have taken place outside the market.

11 points better at 536.8. The closing figure of 534.2 was a net gain of 3.4.

Money market indications that MLR might be allowed to fall by another quarter per cent this week gave a lift to fixed-interest stocks. Though a little below their best short dates ended with net gain of three-quarters, while at the longer end the advance stretched to one and a quarter points.

Dealers commented that it was a day of general rather than specific sentiment, though the expected TUC vote in favour of the 12-month rule on pay

and the Prime Minister's hints on some level of inflation in the autumn did not escape the notice of investors.

Of particular comfort to dealers is the breadth as well as the strength of the present advance. The daily value of bargains is three times the level prevailing at the end of last month with most of this improvement coming in the second-liners.

After a stagnant summer dealers here describe the sudden burst of activity as "startling".

Reports of greater activity in the building industry and the previous day's figures from Costain again inspired the sector to one of the best performances of the session.

Costain itself closed 26p to the good, at 312p, with next year's dividend payment a major consideration. In sympathy Taylor Woodrow ended with a gain of 23p to 468p and Wimpey were 5p to the good at 85p. Marchwiel rose 16p to 272p.

The latest retail figures and hopes of some form of boost to consumer spending in the near future lifted stores and related issues. Among the best were Comet Radio 9p to 114p, Decca "A" 25p to 485p, Burton "A" 6p to 86p and GUS "A" which closed three points higher at 309p. Another store to feature was Maple which shaded half a point to 111p after reporting a reduced loss.

Once again paper and print-

ing issues were well to the fore with Hindson Print up 23p to 92p after revised terms from Ferguson Industrial and Portals 13p lower at 245p after profits which did not match up to most expectations. Others in good form were Thomson Organisation which moved ahead 13p to 705p, United Newspapers, where the gain was 3p to 280p, Daily Mail "A" 10p to 265p and McCorquodale which rose 10p to 220p. Ahead of half-year figures Bowater put on 8p for a finish of 218p.

Takeover hopes were also a help for selective property shares. Peachey added 3p to 63p after the Allied London move while others to rise are more general takeover hopes were Property Securities 20p to 116p and Bernard Sunley 11p to 176p. Other issues in good form included Allair which gained 6p to 187p, Chester 16p to 20p and Land Securities 6p to 216p.

In the current building sector euphoria MJ Gleeson, one of the smaller groups, is not overlooked. A good year is in prospect and there was £1m in cash in the last balance sheet. Properties are in the books at £2.6m, mainly at 1971 values, and some think the group is attractive enough to encourage a suitor. The shares held steady at 35p.

There were some good gains from companies reporting.

These included Diploma Investments, up 17p to 154p, Cenway 13p to 155p and Hepworth

Ceramic after profits about £1m ahead of expectations.

An interim setback and a reduced dividend hit Carpets International to the tune of 9p to 62p,

but dealers feel there might be a much improved picture after the full 12 months.

Equity turnover on September 6 was £157.75m (31,436 bar-

gains). According to Exchange Telegraphic active stocks yesterday were ICI, Shell, RAT DFD,

Peachey Property, BP new,

GKN, Diploma Inv, Commercial

Union, Wimpey, GUS "A", Hep-

worth Ceramic, RAT Ind,

Carpets International, R.

Costain, Taylor Woodrow,

Turner & Newall, Guardian

Royal Oil Exploration, Booker

McConnell and Burton "A".

The directors are expecting the full year's profits to increase in line with the first half figures. This indicates a figure of just over £9m pretax against £7.3m last year.

The group trading picture continues to show the best opportunities arising overseas. Direct and indirect exports and overseas sales account for about 65 per cent of the total.

In banknote and security papermaking growth has slowed down. This reflects a fall in demand and narrowing margins but the board expects to be running at near full capacity for the rest of the year. Capital spending on equipment, product development and management strengths in this division will total £4m in the next two years.

In water treatment and engineering last year's growth has accelerated with continuing buoyancy in export markets and less depression at home.

In this division the Paterson Candy companies in Malaysia and Singapore became subsidiaries with holdings stepped up from 50 per cent to 55 per cent. The interest in the Indian subsidiary will be diluted from

The directors think that the engineering side is too small to realize its potential and it is likely that some of the £4m cash in the balance sheet will be spent on an acquisition in this sector.

One problem for the group, as a whole, highlighted by the directors is the difficulty in recruiting skilled staff.

The interim dividend is 5.30p per share and the directors plan to pay the maximum for the year of 11.67p. The shares fell 15p to 245p after rising from 226p at the beginning of the week. They yield prospectively 4.8 per cent and sell at just under 10 times earnings.

The interim dividend has been increased from 150 cents a share to 200 cents a share.

Anamini's main asset is a 26 per cent holding in De Beers, which in turn controls a third of the equity of Anamini's parent, Anglo American. De Beers recently reported a 93 per cent attributable profit increase to R285m for the first half of the year.

The Otjihase write-off reduced attributable JCI profits to R14.2m (about £9.4m) from R25.2m the year before. However, the final dividend remains unchanged at 130 cents to make a total distribution of 170 cents a share, the same as the previous year.

Otjihase may cease working—Johnnies

By Desmond Quigley

Operations at Otjihase, the troubled Namibian copper producer, may be suspended following a loss of R9.7m in its first full year of operation, according to Johannesburg Consolidated Investment, which has a direct 49 per cent stake.

The possibility of suspension and the extent of the losses are revealed in the JCI preliminary figures for the year to the end of June. JCI has taken in R6.2m of Otjihase's losses as well as writing down its investment in the project by R12m.

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Steel depression may put a curb on results this year from G M Firth (Metals)

By Alison Mitchell

The encouraging recovery last year at Bradford Steel stockist and merchant G. M. Firth (Metals) may prove difficult to maintain.

According to Mr Gerard Leadbeater in the annual report the opening months of the current year have not shown any improvement on last time. The depressed state of the world's steel industries, particularly at the heavy end of the flat products market in which Firth specializes, meant that the gain in the first half of the year to March 31 last could not be held in the second six months.

And Firth is to continue to use its assets to the full. Underlining this policy was the sale, last May, of part of its Bradford site for £725,000 against a book value of £485,000. About two-thirds of the cash raised by the

Portals aim for £9m but shares lose 13p

By our Financial Staff

Portals Holdings, the security paper water treatment group 32 per cent owned by the Bank of England, raised its pre-tax profits from £3.1m to £3.8m in the six months to June 30.

Turnover went up from £31.6m to £38.3m with paper-making sales rising from £12.8m to £15.1m, water treatment and engineering up from £2.2m to £2.9m and property ahead from £340,000 to £344,000. Internal sales and rents came to £5.1m.

A breakdown of trading profits shows a gain in paper-making from £2.1m to £2.4m, water treatment and engineering from £915,000 to £1.3m, and property from £265,000 to £266,000.

The directors are expecting the full year's profits to increase in line with the first half figures. This indicates a figure of just over £9m pretax against £7.3m last year.

The group trading picture continues to show the best opportunities arising overseas. Direct and indirect exports and overseas sales account for about 65 per cent of the total.

In banknote and security papermaking growth has slowed down. This reflects a fall in demand and narrowing margins but the board expects to be running at near full capacity for the rest of the year. Capital spending on equipment, product development and management strengths in this division will total £4m in the next two years.

In water treatment and engineering last year's growth has accelerated with continuing buoyancy in export markets and less depression at home.

In this division the Paterson Candy companies in Malaysia and Singapore became subsidiaries with holdings stepped up from 50 per cent to 55 per cent. The interest in the Indian subsidiary will be diluted from

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Plenty of room for Hepworth Ceramic to do better still

By Bryan Appleyard

Hepworth Ceramic Holdings, the Sheffield clayware to refractories group, has followed its 46 per cent profits growth last year with a 42 per cent rise in turnover.

This outstripped best market hopes by at least £1m.

On a turnover up from £78.3m to £1

FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

Diploma expects to pay nearly twice as much when time comes

By Alison Mitchell
Shareholders in electronics distributor and engineer Diploma Investments could be in for a handsome payout when dividend restrictions are lifted.

For Mr Christopher Thomas, chairman, reveals that, had the group had a free hand this time round, the annual dividend would have been raised to 9p gross. Diploma is already paying 5.2p, covered over three times by earnings, and Mr Thomas promises that the policy of increasing the dividend, if the group continues to prosper, will be reflected in next year's payment.

In the 12 months to June 30, 1977, the group surged ahead. Pre-tax profits rose by almost 60 per cent from £2.5m to £4.4m, on a turnover up 55.7m to £25.9m. So pre-tax margins

were a healthy 15.6 per cent against 13 per cent.

Much of the improvement has come from a big expansion programme. On the industrial distribution side, profits doubled from £1.1m to £2.2m in the 12 months, on the back of a substantial increase in turnover. Part of the increase came from a price rise, but Mr Thomas reports that there was an 80 per cent volume growth.

Improved market penetration, price movements and exchange rate increases resulted in near doubled turnover. Diploma now acts for a large percentage of manufacturers of semi-conductor and allied electronic devices.

The star performer in the manufacturing division was Henry Whitham, steel stockholding and heat treatment off-

shoot, which helped improve the division's profit from £1.3m to £1.7m. Blakelite-NSE and Sankey Sheldon made more than £600,000 in the partitioning and office furniture market. This side of the business has also increased its exports, particularly to the Middle East.

In the past year overseas sales by the group rose from £600,000 to £1.5m and the chairman is confident of even better things.

So far this year, orders, sales and profits are up on the same period in 1976 and the chairman is confident:

The shares were actively traded yesterday. They closed 17p stronger at a year's high of 154p. On the current dividend this gives a yield of 3.4 per cent and a p/e ratio of 9.2.

Raybeck is confident after a 25pc gain

By Michael Clark

Raybeck, the clothing maker and retailing group, which recently took control of men's wear rival John Stephen, improved pre-tax profits by a quarter to £4.6m in the year to April 30.

Sales rose strongly from £49.5m to £63.1m, but margins slipped from 7.52 per cent to 7.39 per cent. Earnings a share were 5.72p as against 4.56p and the total dividend is 4.5p gross compared with 3.5p for the corresponding period. There is also an extraordinary profit arising from the sale of 309 Oxford Street, in June 1976, of £2.2m.

Results at half time showed a jump in pre-tax profits of £418,000 to a record £2.2m on sales up by 22 per cent to £30.5m.

Mr Ben Raven, chairman and chief executive, said that these record interim profits have confirmed his confidence.



Mr Ben Raven, chairman

So far this year sales are ahead of last year, and the group's future is set for sustained expansion supported by increased capital base.

The shares held steady at 55p yesterday.

Newbold & Burton ahead but margins slipping

Ladies shoe manufacturer Newbold & Burton Holdings is continuing to tread the road to better profits with an 8 per cent improvement to £159,000 pre-tax in the first six months of this year. Turnover rose from £2.76m to £3.6m leaving margins down by about a fifth at 4.4 per cent.

However, Mr V. H. Burton, chairman, promises further things in the second half. Technical problems at subsidiary Lawson Ward which affected last year's figures have been sorted out, and the overshoot has

now returned to profitability.

This combined with satisfactory order books, a record advance in turnover and higher levels of production should lead to a much greater improvement in the second half, according to the chairman.

Last year the Leicester-based group made a pre-tax profit of £303,000 on sales of £5.5m. For shareholders there is an interim dividend of 1.8p, an increase of 10 per cent on the previous 1.65p.

Institutional investors, including insurance and pension funds, hold about a quarter of the shares.

American Express in challenge to Tenneco for Philad'ia Life**International**

Houston—Tenneco is not commenting at present on the offer by American Express to buy Philadelphia Life Insurance.

On August 25 Philadelphia Life agreed in principle to be acquired by Tenneco for the equivalent of \$170.6m. At the time Tenneco held about 24 per cent of Philadelphia Life's 10m outstanding shares.

Under the previous bid for Philadelphia Life by Tenneco, 0.22 shares of a new Tenneco

7 per cent voting preference stock with no par value but a \$100 liquidation value would be exchanged for each outstanding share of Philadelphia Life.

Each share of the preference stock would be non-redeemable for 10 years and afterwards would be subject to a sinking fund that would retire the issue by the end of the twentieth year.

Later yesterday, American Express said that its offer for Philadelphia Life was worth \$220m. The group would be offering new preferred convertible stock for Philadelphia stock. It added that it hoped to pursue discussions with the insurance group.

Fr 800m for Michelin

Paris.—Cie Générale Michelin, the holding company for the tyre and rubber group, is to tap the French capital market for Fr800m.

The offering will be priced at 99 per cent and the bonds will carry a coupon of 11.20 per cent.

The Saab board said: "The board was informed of Volvo's

15 per cent stake in

decision to break the merger talks." It "expressed its regret that alternative forms of cooperation to those outlined in the May 6 proposition had not been found."

The Volvo-Saab merger would have resulted in a company with 70,000 employees in Sweden and 23,000 abroad. Volvo's President Mr Pehr G. Gyllenhammar and Mr Curt Milejkowski said after the May 6 merger-plan announcement, that they believed a combined Volvo-Saab would create more jobs than if the group's stayed on their own.

The French Government on Tuesday authorized tyre producers to increase prices by 3 per cent—AP—Dow Jones.

Xerox Trust suit

Whippany, N.J.—Van Dyk Research Corporation says that its suit charging Xerox Corporation with violations of the Federal Anti Trust laws and a \$100 million damage award has been set for trial starting in February.

The company added that discovery proceedings should be completed by the end of the year. Van Dyk is currently operating in chapter XI bankruptcy—Reuter.

Saab's Volvo sorrow

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Stock Exchange Prices

More good gains

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Began, Sept 5. Dealings End, Sept 16 § Contango Day, Sept 19. Settlement Day, Sept 27

§ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days

High Low Stock		Int. Gross Div Yld		Gross Div Yld		Gross Div Yld		Gross Div Yld		Gross Div Yld		Gross Div Yld		Gross Div Yld		Gross Div Yld		Gross Div Yld																			
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Motoring

Swansea reply in dispute over hatch back

I have received a long and considered reply from the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Centre at Swansea to my July 7 article drawing attention to apparent anomalies in the way cars are officially classified as either "private" or "goods" vehicles.

The difficulty has mainly arisen over the designated saloons or hatchbacks, which have been appearing in increasing numbers in the past few years. Some are classified as goods vehicles and must, if used to carry goods, pay the appropriate duty based on unladen weight. Others are regarded as private cars and need pay only the £50 flat rate.

But which hatchbacks come into which category? Having discovered considerable confusion among motorists, dealers and car manufacturers? I obtained from Swansea a list of official classifications for 44 models. Far from making things clearer, the list increased the confusion.

The strangest classifications concerned the Vauxhall Chevette hatchback and the Opel Kadett City. Though they share the same bodyshell (Opel and Vauxhall are both subsidiaries of General Motors), the Vauxhall is classed as a goods vehicle and the Opel as a private car.

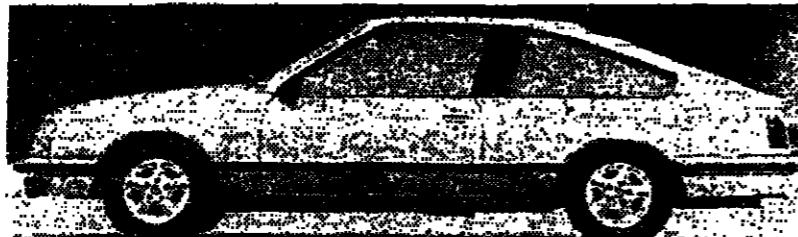
I also wondered how the Reliant Scimitar GTR could be called a private car when the Lancia Beta HPE (which would seem to be a fairly close copy) was classified as an estate; how this could be one definition for the Rover 3500 (private) and another for the Renault 30 (goods); how the three-door Ford Capri came into the private category; and so on.

Swansea points out that until the advent of the hatchback, classification was simple. All saloons were regarded as private vehicles, all estates as goods vehicles, on the reasoning that an estate car was a version constructed to increase normal load-carrying to more than required for passengers' own luggage. The exceptions were the Peugeot 404 and 504 "family" estates which were held, not unreasonably, to be designed for pleasure rather than business.

Now the hatchback does not obviously fall into either category. Swansea says: "The simple answer would be to say that any car with a rear door and folding back seats was a 'goods' vehicle regardless. We think this is far too general a line to take. Thus over the years we have taken an empirical line, trying to decide each case on its merits having regard to such factors as the car's construction, ease of loading and load-carrying capacity."

Inevitably when dealing with the problem in this way, from time to time there will be apparent anomalies. But we do not think that the position is quite as muddled as you seem to suggest."

On the Chevette/Kadett, Swansea concedes that the classification was made without seeing the cars. "The fact is that Vauxhall asked us for a decision on the Chevette when it was



Opel's new 135 mph coupé, the Monza.

only in its prototype form and we gave one based on the engineering details. The decision on the Kadett was based on the usual brochure and publicity information. It was, perhaps, a borderline decision and we will look at it again."

The Scimitar and Lancia Beta HPE are considered to be very dissimilar in load-carrying potential. "Whatever the makers may say, the Reliant has never been regarded as being of the estate car type. Its rear door is not much more than a sizable opening rear window, whereas the Lancia has a high lifting tailgate which opens flush with the floor and in this respect, and in carrying potential, it is little different from the estate car."

Swansea says it informs manufacturers of its classifications and that it is then up to the manufacturer to tell the dealers. My experience is that some manufacturers and dealers are still far from clear on the subject, though local vehicle licensing offices (or Swansea itself) should be able to provide the information.

Motorists who make a false declaration on their licence application form can be fined up to £200 or imprisoned for two years. If Swansea considers it extremely unlikely that the owner was genuinely unaware that his vehicle was classified as an estate car, he should be so punished.

It must be emphasized that even if the car is officially classed as a goods vehicle, it only attracts the goods duty if so used. For most motorists, it does not matter how the vehicle is classified.

On the other hand, the question of what constitutes goods has always been a difficult one. Swansea adds: "Strictly, anything carried is goods; however, putting the load into the car, the licensing officers have always been prepared to disregard what only amounts to hand luggage. Thus, for instance, we would disregard the doctor's bag but not other equipment that he might carry, such as oxygen cylinders."

Road test: R12 Estate

Estate cars are more about comfort and practicability than acceleration, and the best way to assess one is to fill it with family and luggage and drive with due consideration for both. My test is based on a fortnight in the Isle of Wight. The results, even over the August Bank Holiday, were surprisingly empty, no one wanted much for parking. Petrol, though, was about 5p a gallon dearer than on the mainland.

The car is similar in design to the excellent R12 saloon but with stronger rear suspension, thicker anti-roll bars and larger rear brake drums. The height of the headlamps beams can be adjusted under heavy loads.

With an overall length of 14ft 5ins, the estate is suitably compact for parking while offering plenty of space inside. The luggage area, with the spare wheel tucked well to one side and no awkward lip, took all we needed for the fortnight, and had the back seat been required for a couple of six-footers instead of children, it would have accommodated them with ease. Alternatively, the rear seat folds down to make a 5ft platform.

Two prime requirements of a vehicle that must make longish journeys with

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